# A Counsellor's Mirthbook:

## Comedy from my Casebook

Lionel Hartley, PhD

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*Comedy from my Casebook*

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Who says that counselling is all serious stuff? Here within these pages is a compilation of the humorous statements made, situations presented and *faux pas* recorded through-out thirty years of family-life counselling by the now-retired sociologist and Academy Professor, Dr Lionel Hartley.

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After three decades of counselling, Dr Hartley sometimes ponders some of the things which have come up in counselling that, in retrospect, contain an element of humour. He has also included a few anecdotes shared by other counsellors from their experience.

**Names have been changed to protect privacy**
Throughout this compilation the names Egbert and Maggie have bees substituted for the actual names of the counselling clients to protect the privacyof both the clients and their families.

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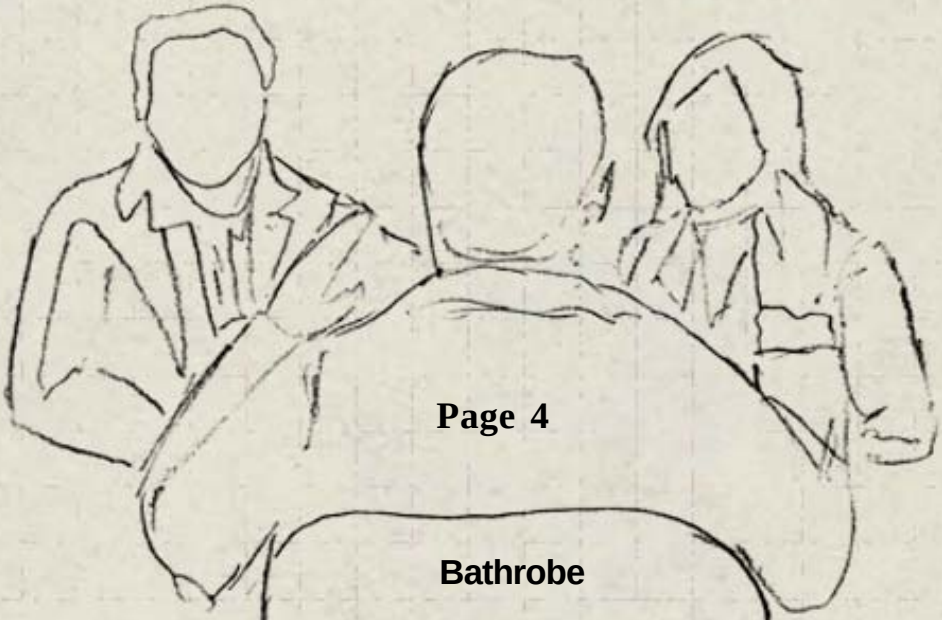
Lionel D C Hartley, DipAdmin(NZIM), HonDip (DramArt), DipTheol (SDB), RGN (Psy, PsyPaed, Admin, Nutn), Dip Bus Law (NZ), Dip Econ, Dip Accy, BA (Lit), MA, PhD [etc.]

## Anniversary Gift

Egbert said to his wife that he was going to get her a special twenty-fourth anniversary gift. "I'm going to take you to England," he said.

Maggie agreed with his idea with a smile and challenged him in front of me: "That's going to be hard to beat. What are you going to do for our 25th anniversary?"

"Easy," Egbert replied, "I'll go back and get you."

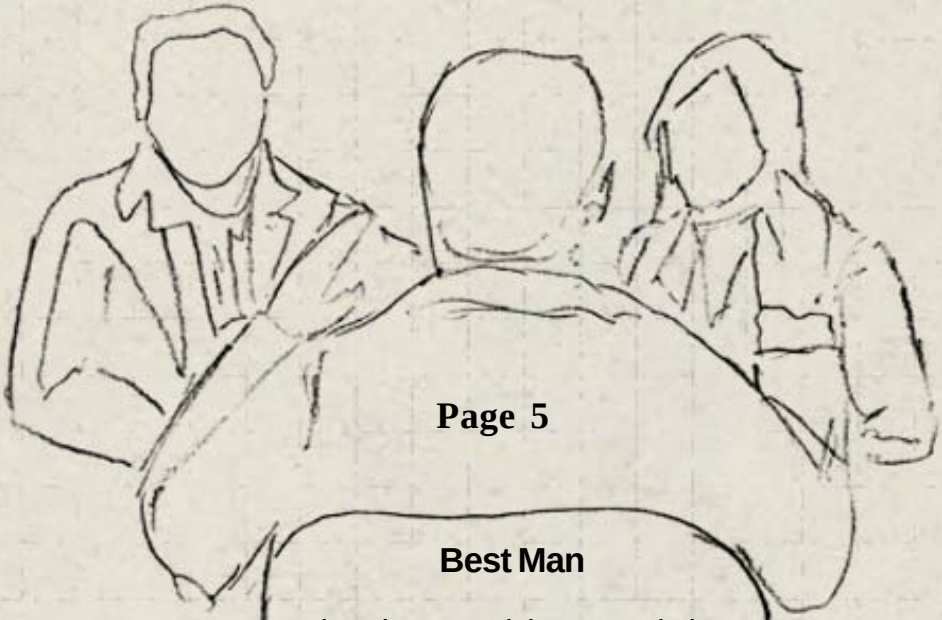




## Bathrobe

Maggie was lamenting the fact that Egbert's secretary had bought him a flannelette bathrobe as a gift.

This had set in motion an argument and when Maggie explained it to me later, she said, "It's not that I mind that she bought him a gift, it's just that if God had wanted men to wear bathrobes, He wouldn't have invented cute pyjama shorts!"





## Best Man

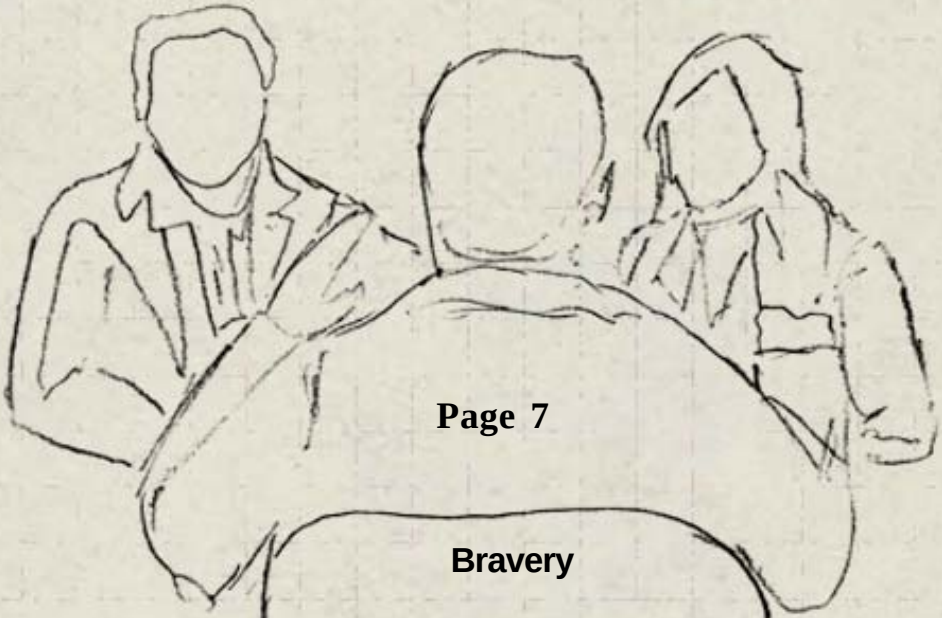
Egbert lamented that Maggie just didn't seem to appreciate him, in fact she candedly admitted that she had eyes for the best man at their wedding.

They had only been married a short time before he came to see me, lamenting "The trouble with having a best man at a wedding is that you never get to prove that he is not the best for her. When I challenged my best man on this, he said that the trouble with being the best man at a wedding is that you have to go out of your way to prove you are the best."

## Best Years

Maggie (to counsellor): "I don't know how Egbert can treat me so poorly after I've given him the best years of my life."

Egbert (also to counsellor):: "Oh yeah? And who do you think made them the best years of her life, Huh?"





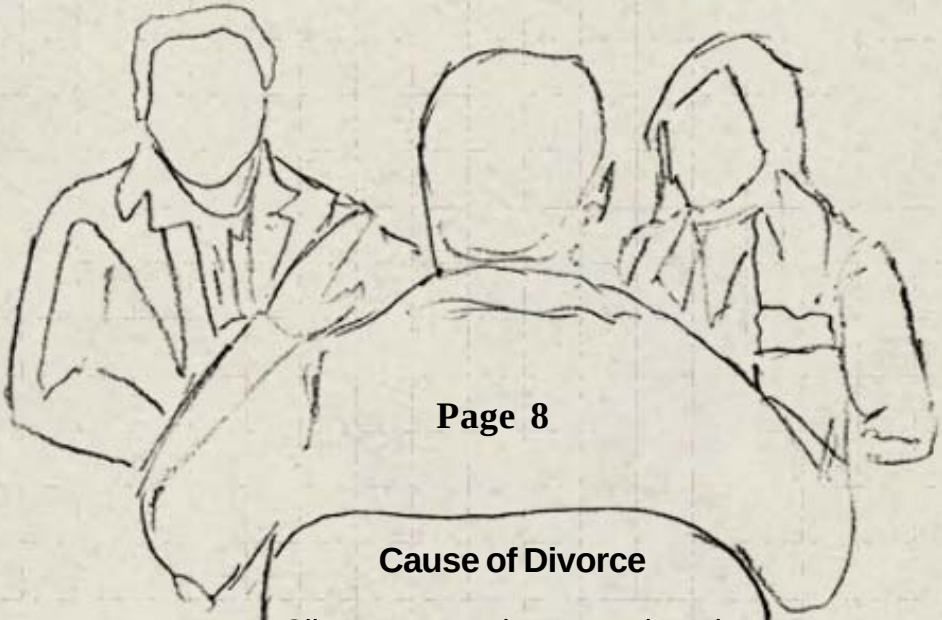
## Bravery

Their argument had started when Egbert & Maggie were shown into the dentist's office.

Egbert had made it clear that he was in a big hurry. "No fancy stuff, Doctor," he ordered. "No gas or needles or any of that stuff. Just pull the tooth and get it over with."

The dentist was obviously proud of Egbert and said, "I wish more of my patients were as stoic as you. Now, which tooth is it?"

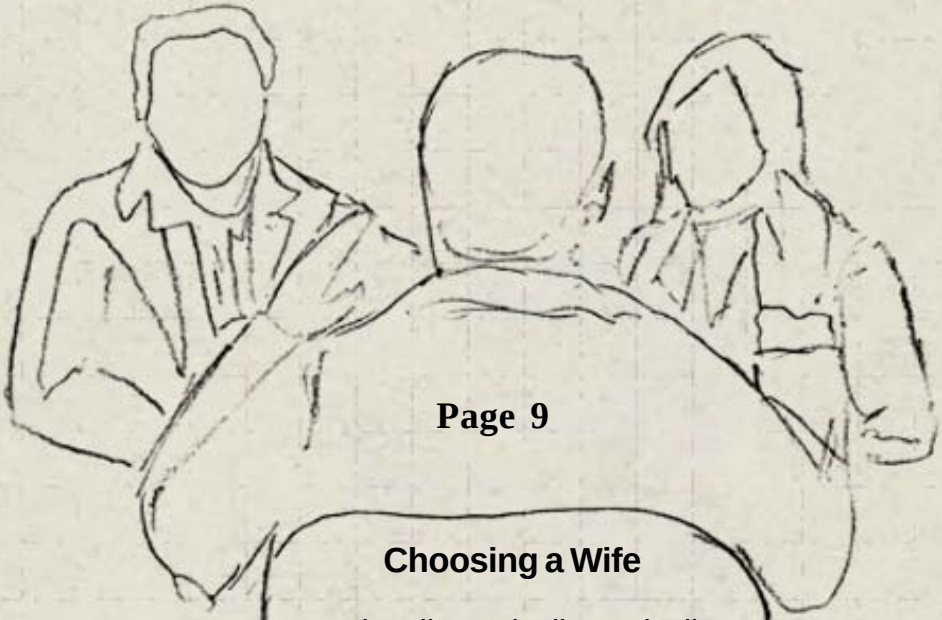
Egbert turned to his wife and said, "Show him your tooth, Honey."





## Cause of Divorce

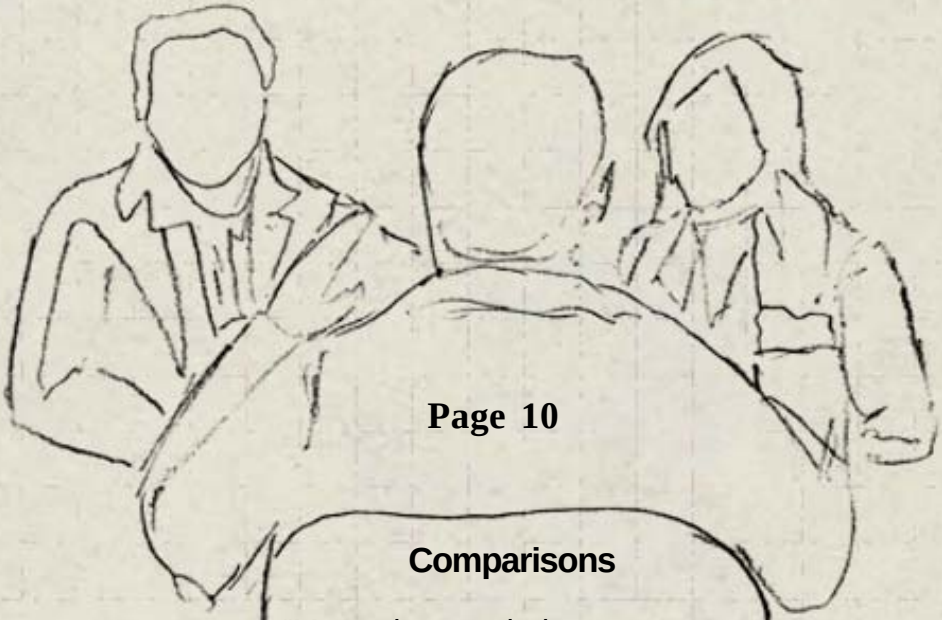
Client: "I guess that I'm resigned to the fact that it is marriage that is the sole cause of divorce."





## Choosing a Wife

Maggie talks and talks and talks. I should have chosen my wife by ear rather than by eye.





## Comparisons

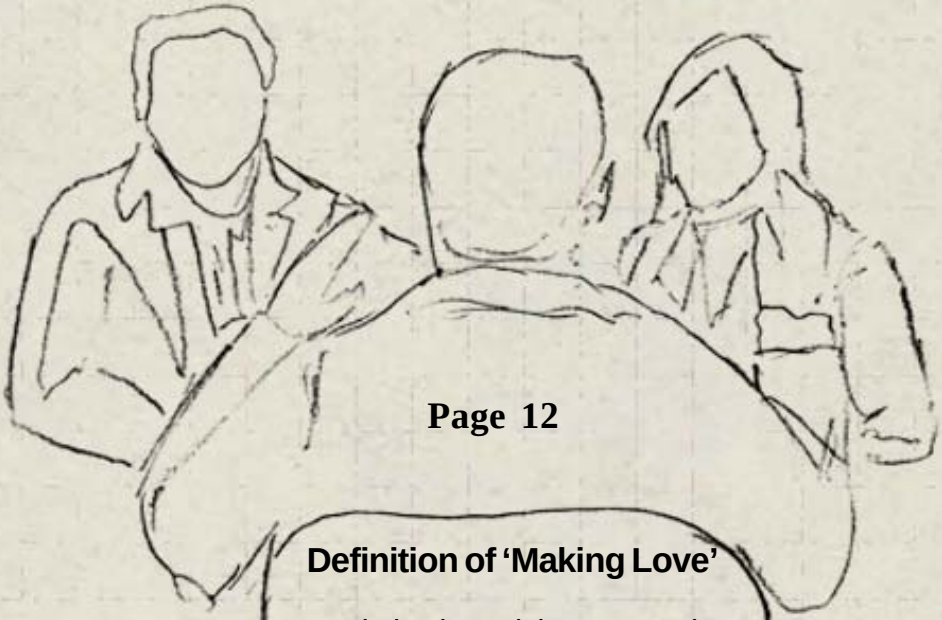
"My getting married was very much like going to the restaurant with friends.

You order what you want, and when you see what the other fellow has, you wish that you had ordered that."

## Cost of wedding

"Egbert's son asked, 'How much does it cost to get married, Dad?'

He had to confess, 'I don't know son, I'm still paying for it.'"

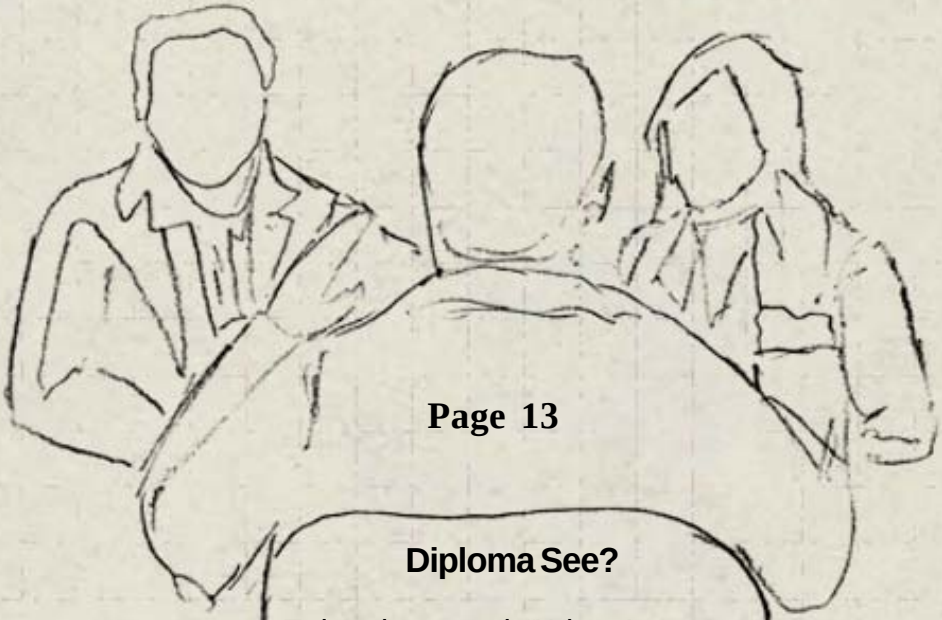




## Definition of 'Making Love'

Maggie had used the expression 'Making Love' several times in the counselling session, but her usage of the expression left me wondering how she defined it.

Upon my asking her, she replied, 'I guess, for me, making love is something I do while Egbert [my husband] is mating with me!

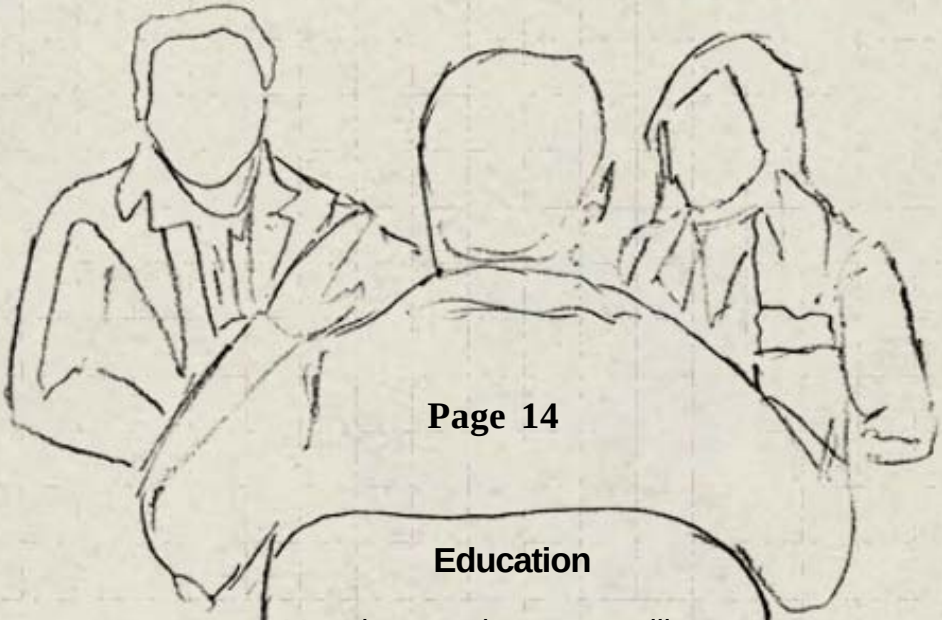




## Diploma See?

Egbert lamented, "When I got married I lost my Bachelor's Degree, she got her Masters, and now I daily get the Third Degree".

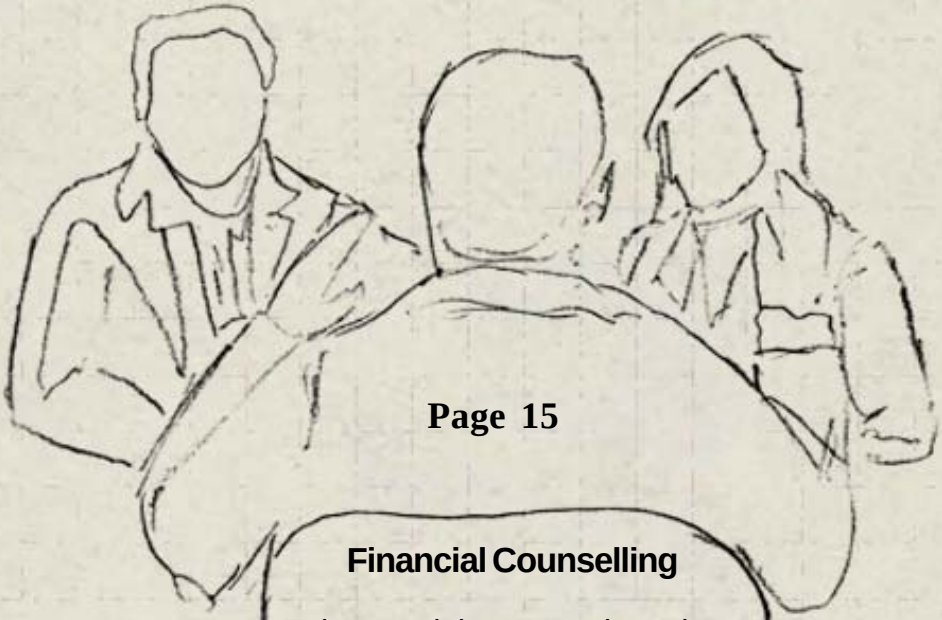
(We don't think that this was original with him.)





## Education

Maggie started our counselling session by saying, "Just think, if it weren't for marriage, men would go through life thinking they had no faults at all".

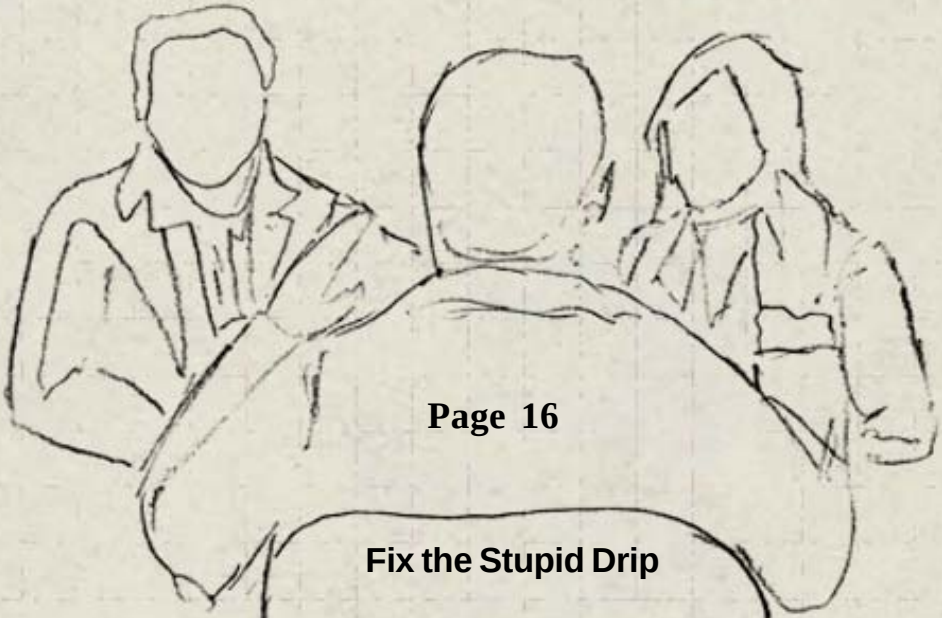




## Financial Counselling

Egbert explains, "Maggie and I have come for counselling because we have a problem in our marriage agreeing on finances."

"And, by the way, can we have separate bills for today's session?"

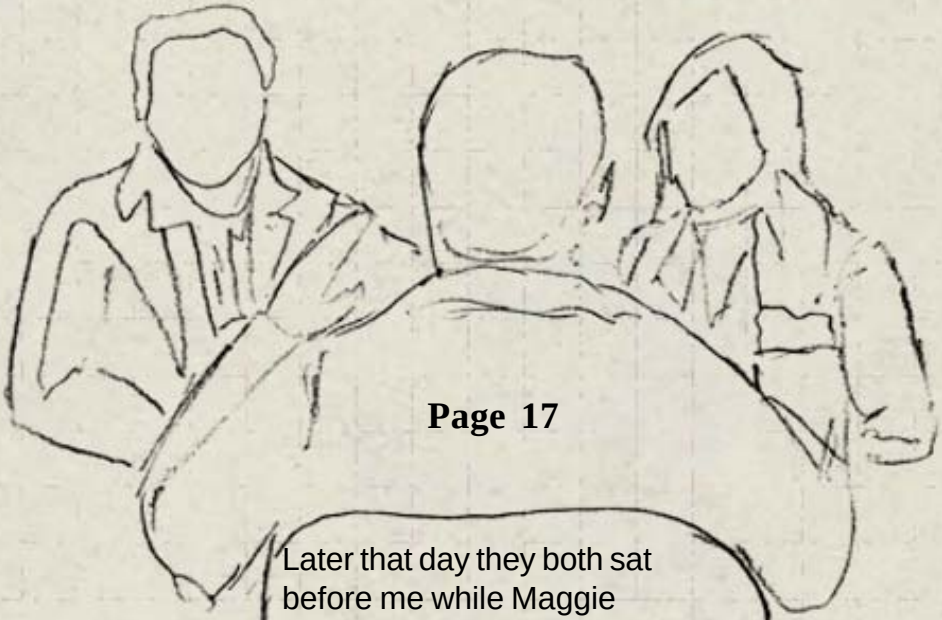




## Fix the Stupid Drip

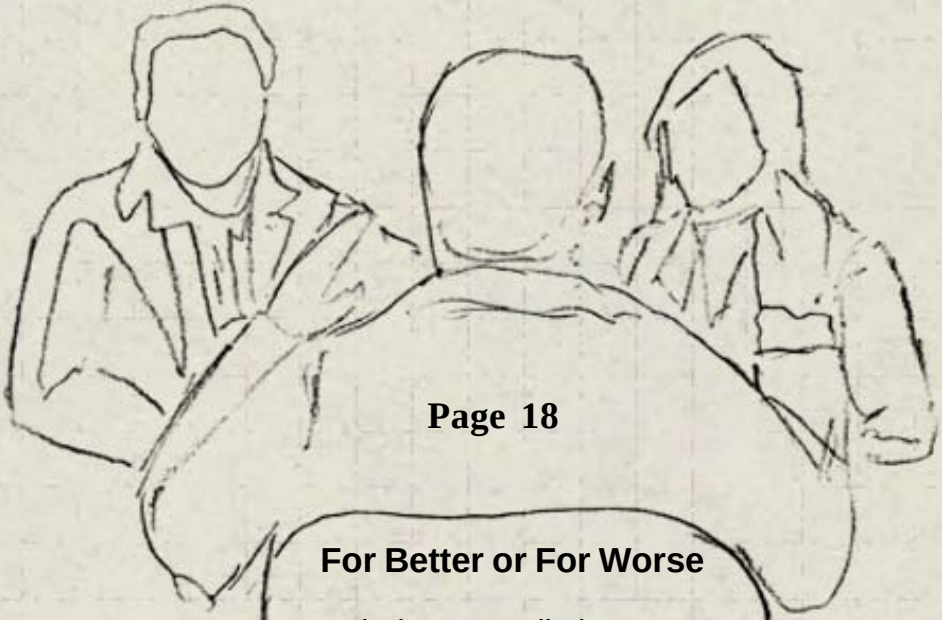
Egbert stormed into my clinic insisting that marriage counselling was not working. His 'proof' was a letter written in his wife's handwriting to her supposed lover.
He had found the letter on his hallway telephone table and had 'rescued' it before his wife Maggie had an opportunity to mail it.

As I read the letter it became apparent that Maggie's side of the story would be necessary to calm the situation.





Later that day they both sat before me while Maggie explained that she had written the letter because their telephone was out of order, and it was to the local plumber requesting that he come to repair to a noisy dripping tap.
The letter read: *"Dear Bert. As I mentioned to you the other day when I saw you in the street, I cannot sleep with that drip any longer. I had been tempted to stifle the problem with a pillow but realised that would only be a temporary solution. Could you please come around soon and fix the stupid drip once and for all? Thanks, Maggie."*

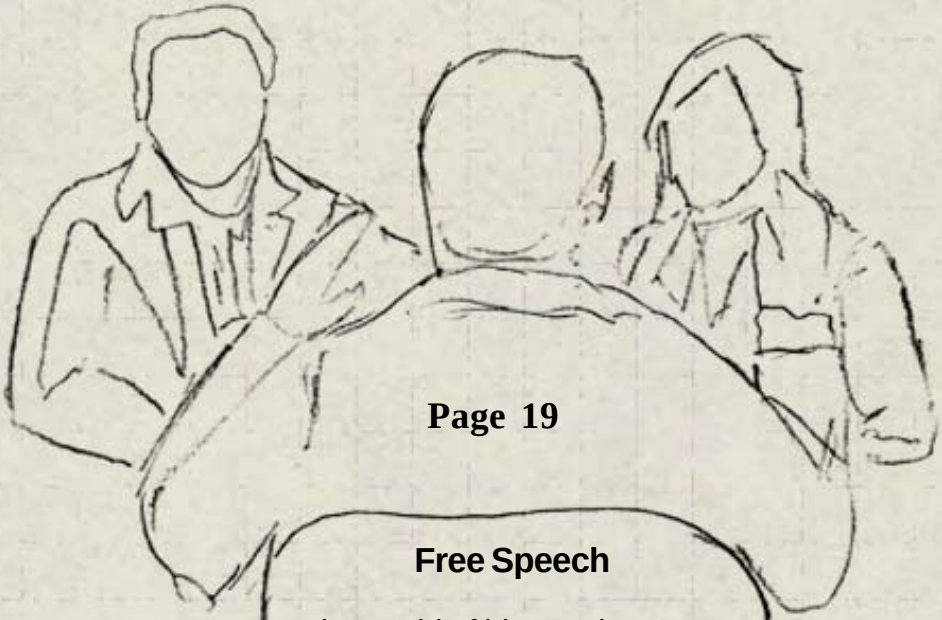




## For Better or For Worse

Maggie (to counsellor): "He says he doesn't love me any more because I have grown fat, but he promised to love me 'for better or for worse'!"

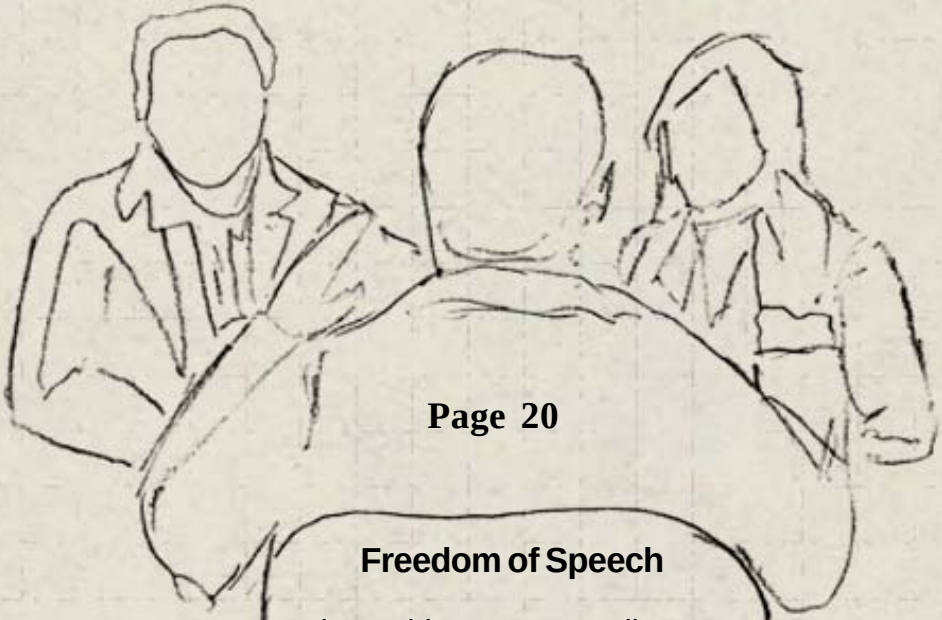
Egbert: "Yeah, 'for better or for worse', not 'through thick and thin'!'





## Free Speech

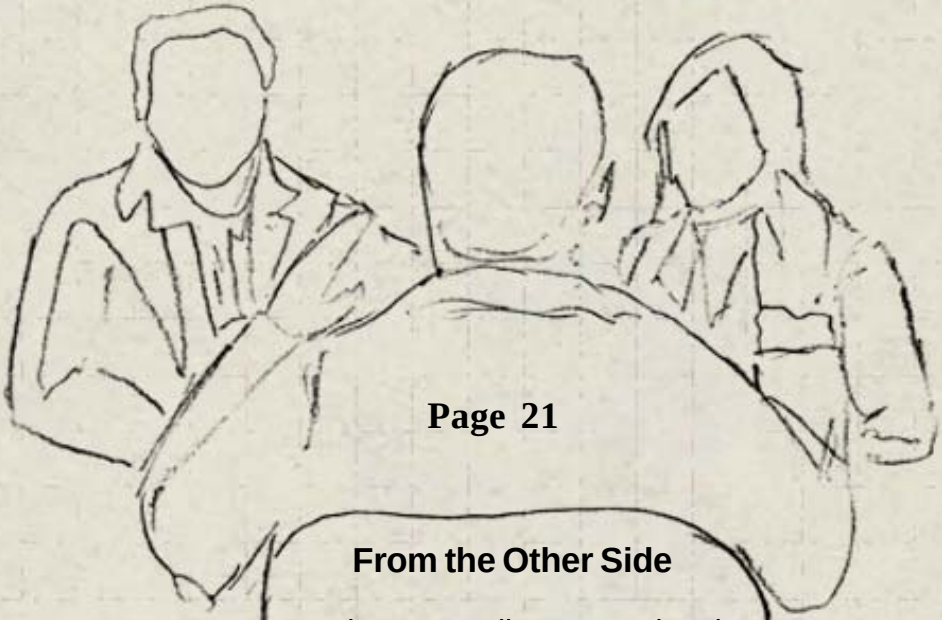
Egbert said of his marriage, 'First I said "I will," then I said, "I do," and after that I couldn't get a word in edgewise.'





## Freedom of Speech

Egbert told me, "Personally, I think one of the greatest things about marriage is that as both husband and father, I can say anything I want to around the house. Of course, no one pays the least bit of attention."



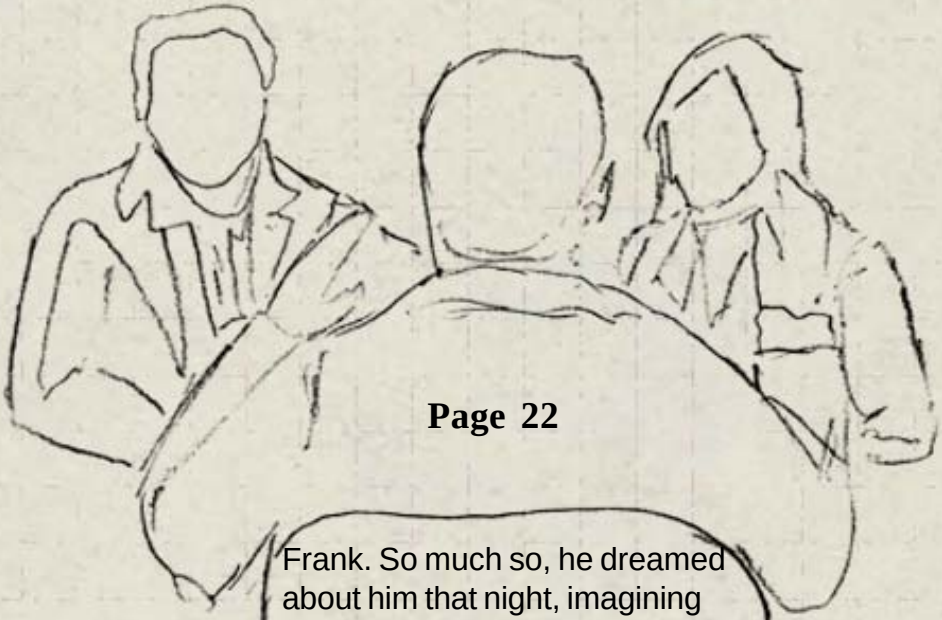


## From the Other Side

Frank was a well-respected real estate agent in Glen Innes NSW, Australia. I say 'was', because Frank, now in his sunset years, died recently.

Although Egbert (not his real name) had known Frank for over a decade, the news of Frank's death reached Egbert too late for him to attend Frank's funeral and 'pay his last respects'.

Egbert told me he was worried that, because he didn't go the funeral, he would be haunted by the spirit of the now deceased

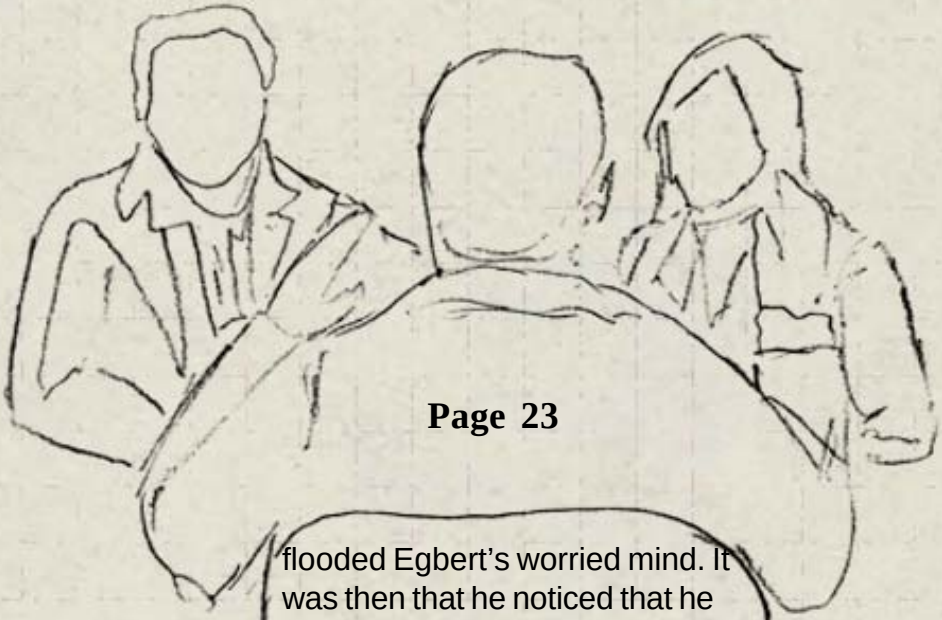




Frank. So much so, he dreamed about him that night, imagining that somehow Frank would give him a message 'from the other side'.

Sure enough, at about midnight he awoke to a strange knocking sound emanating from the kitchen. He crept into the kitchen and switched on the light. No one was there, but the knocking noise continued. It appeared to come from the sink.

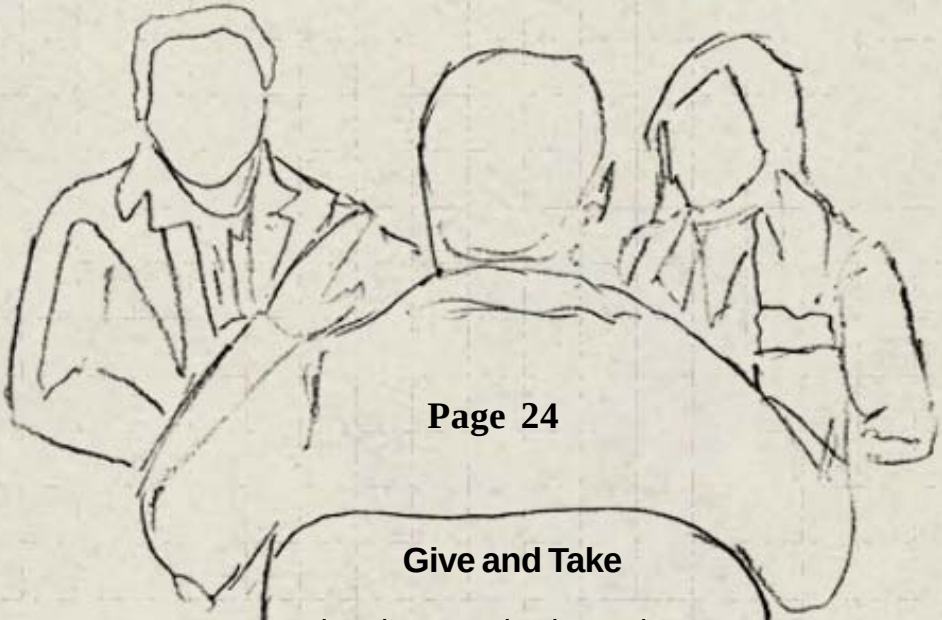
Immediately Egbert imagined that Frank was cursing him by attacking the plumbing. Thoughts of the enormous cost of repairs





flooded Egbert's worried mind. It was then that he noticed that he had left the hot-water tap running and this was causing a knocking noise in the pipe. When I asked

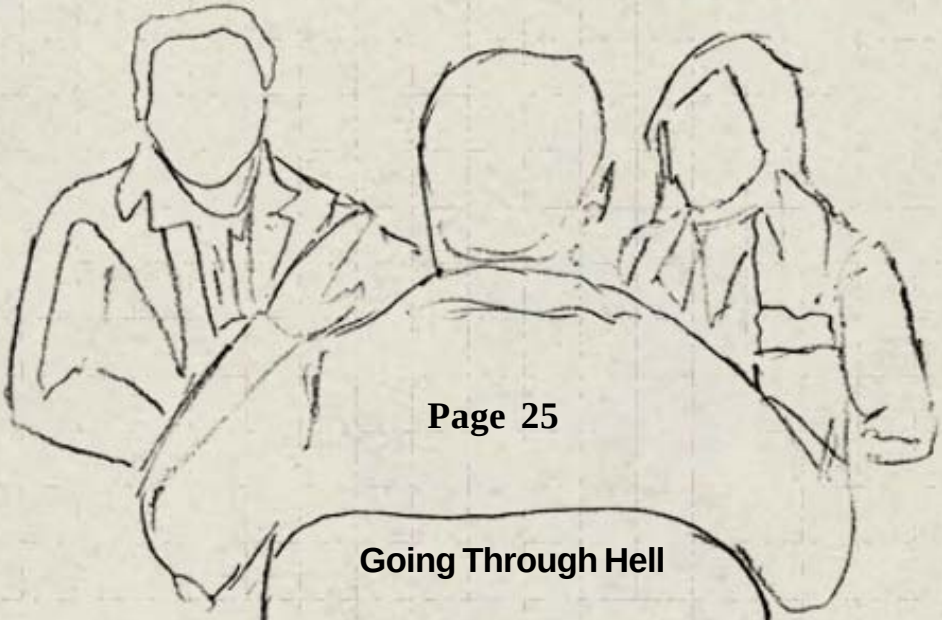
Egbert if this relieved him of any anxiety about messages from heaven, he simply replied, 'Oh, I got the message from Frank, all right. And he's not in Heaven - in fact I know he's in the other place because he was telling me that he's now "in hot water"!'





## Give and Take

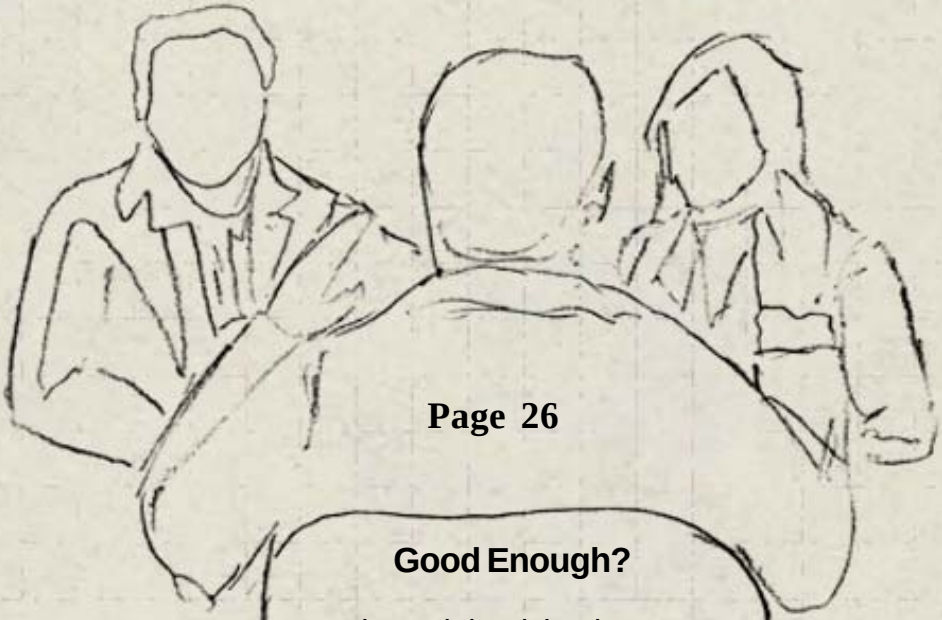
Egbert lamented, "I know that a happy marriage is supposed to be a matter of giving and taking, but it seems that I always give and my wife always takes."





## Going Through Hell

Egbert said that before they were married he had told his bride Maggie, 'Darling, I love you so much I would go through Hell for you!' Having said that to her then, now that I am married and going through Hell, I can't legitimately complain to her about it.

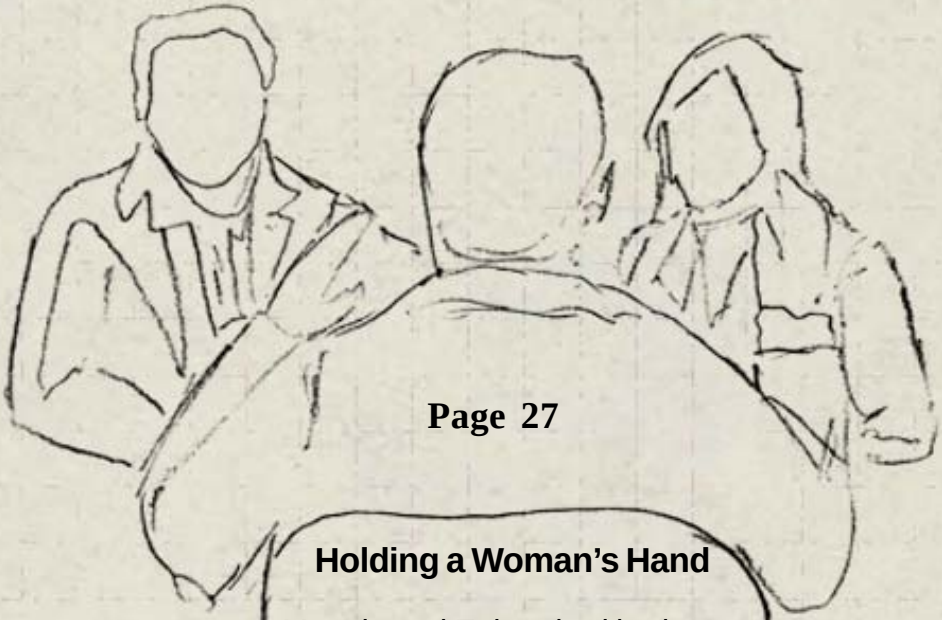




## Good Enough?

Maggie explained that her husband Egbert had in every sense lived up to a comment that he had made to her before they were married.

When I asked what the statement was, she replied, 'He told me, "I'm really not good enough for you.'"





## Holding a Woman's Hand

Maggie and Egbert had had an argument. She explained that he was trying to hold her hand as they walked along the street together.

Maggie said that only BEFORE marriage a man should hold a woman's hand in public.

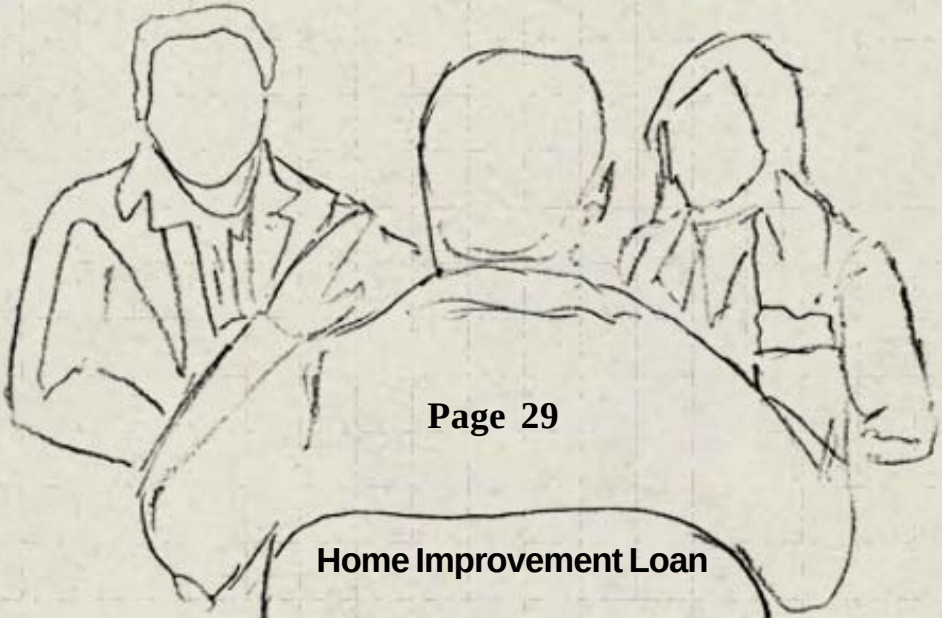
Egbert added (with a sigh of resignation), "I guess that AFTER marriage a man can only hold a woman's hand
IN SELF-DEFENCE!"

LHH

## Holiday plans

Maggie and Egbert had come in for counselling and Egbert explained that it had all started with an argument over their holiday plans.

He said that he wanted to go to Brisbane and she said that she wanted to come too.



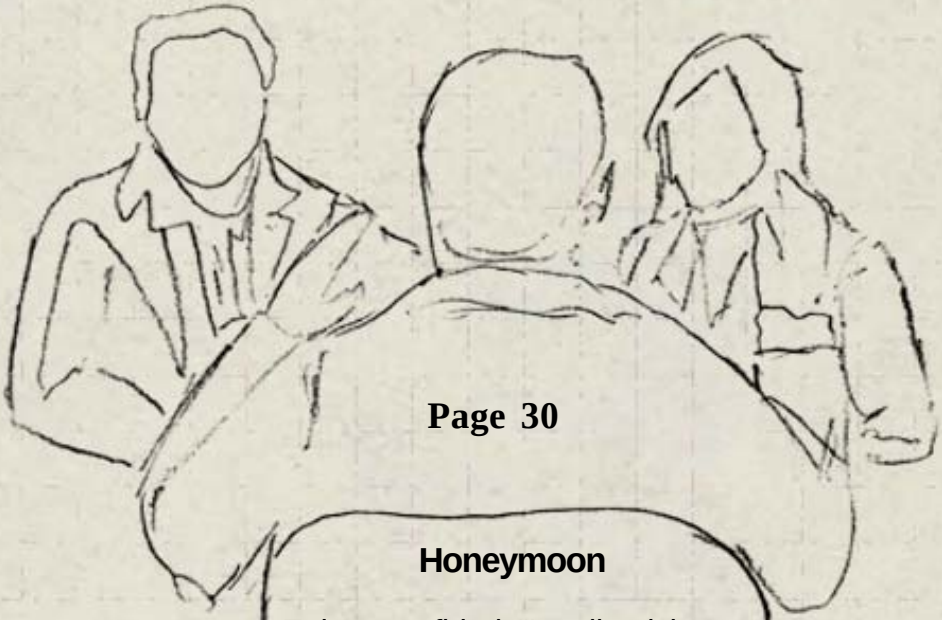


## Home Improvement Loan

A distraught Maggie explained that she had overheard a telephone conversation her husband Egbert had had with his bank manager.

He was negotiating what he referred to as a 'home improvement' loan.

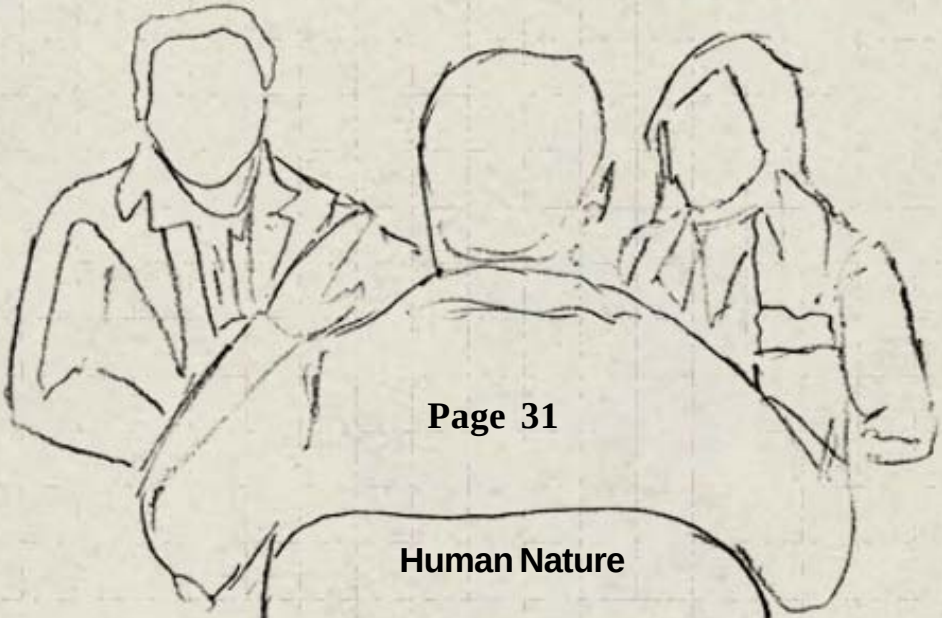
When he later asked him what 'home improvement' he had in mind he bluntly told her that the money was in case he needed to buy her a one-way airline ticket for her to visit her mother.





## Honeymoon

Egbert confided, "I realised that the honeymoon was pretty much over when I started to go out with the boys on Wednesday nights, and so did she".





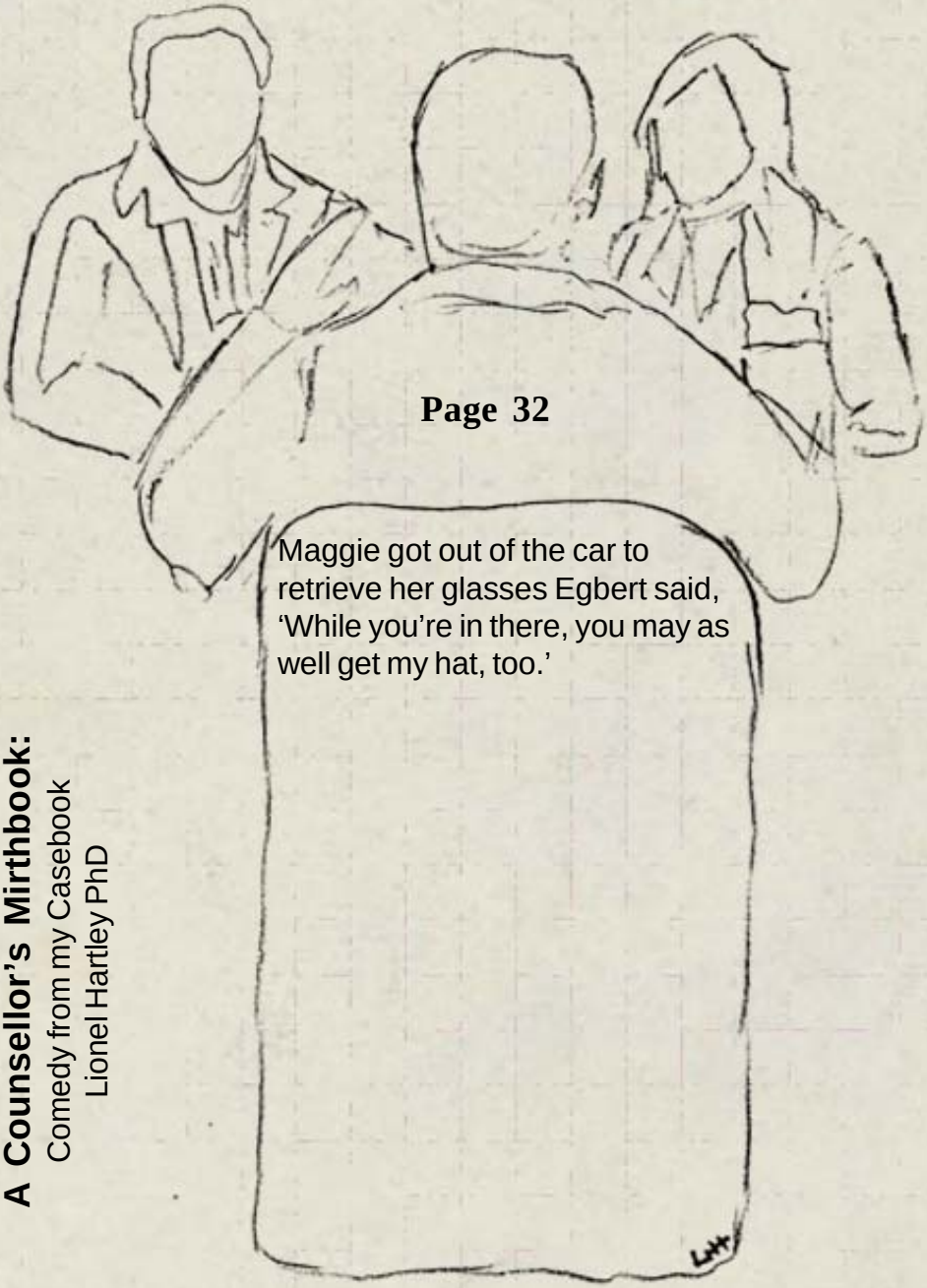
## Human Nature

While driving interstate to see me for a counselling session, Maggie and Egbert stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch.

Maggie unfortunately left her glasses on the table, but didn't miss them until they were back on the highway.

By then, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around.

Egbert fussed and complained all the way back to the restaurant. When they finally arrived, as



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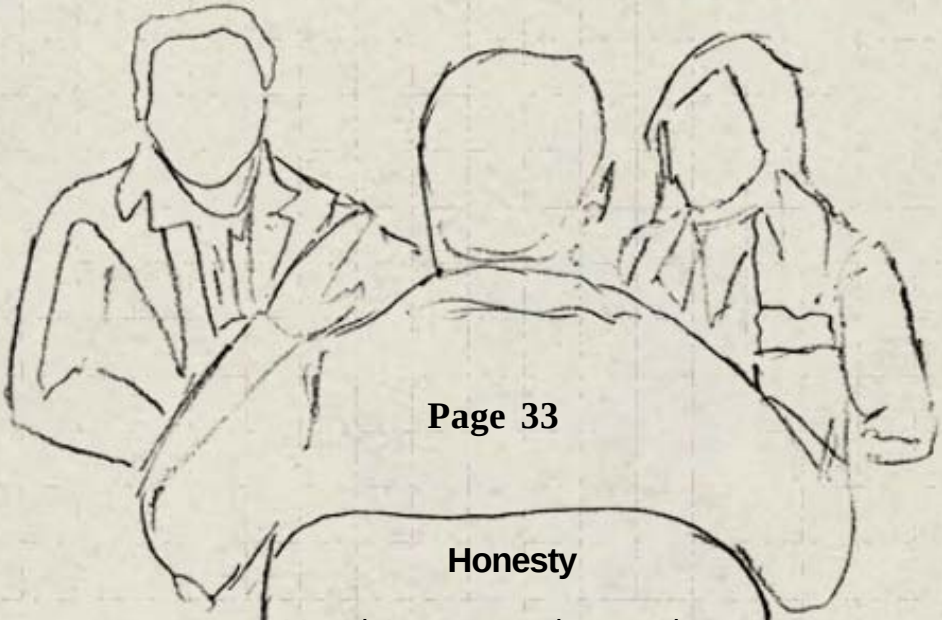
Maggie got out of the car to retrieve her glasses Egbert said, 'While you're in there, you may as well get my hat, too.'



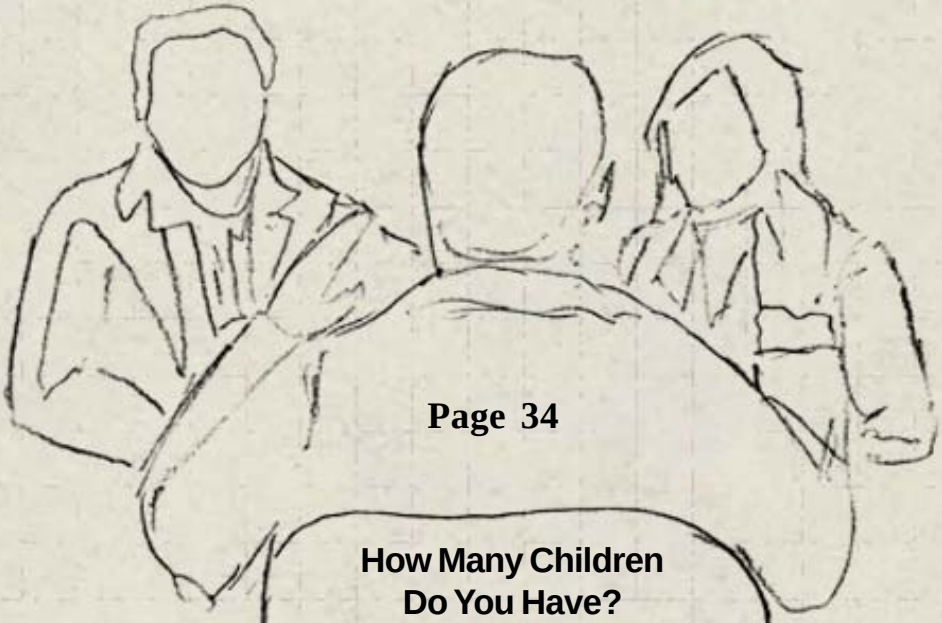


## Honesty

Maggie's argument began when she asked her husband, Egbert, for a compliment on her new pair of 'jeans'.

'Honey', she asked, 'Do these new jeans really make my bottom look like a sack of potatoes?'

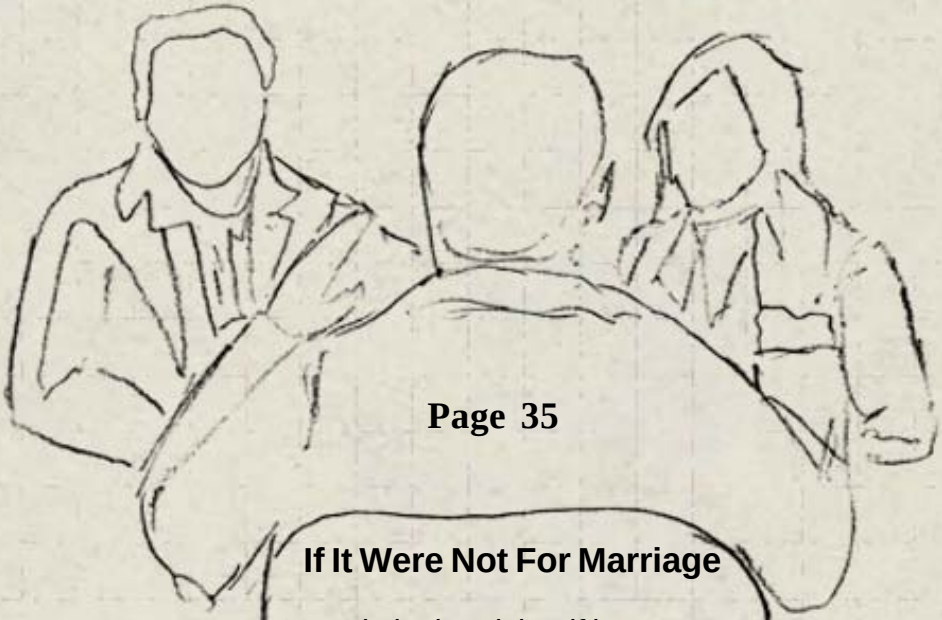
In the counselling session I was told of Egbert's reply. 'No dear,' he said, 'Potato sacks aren't blue!'





## How Many Children Do You Have?

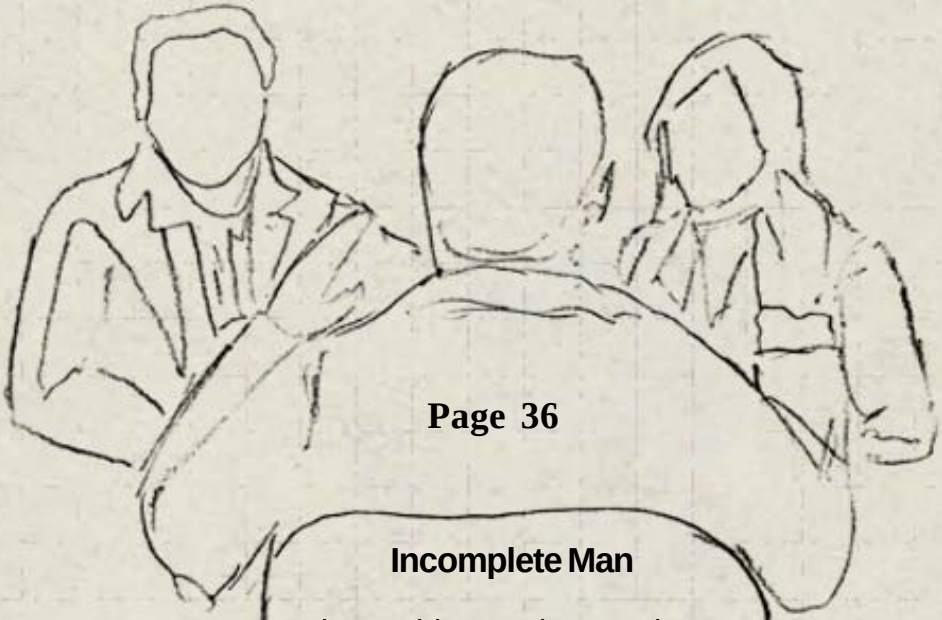
Trying not to confess to adultery, Maggie said, "We have four children — one by my first husband, two by my present husband and one by myself.





## If It Were Not For Marriage

Maggie insisted that if it were not for marriage, men like Egbert (her husband) would go through life thinking they had no short-comings at all.

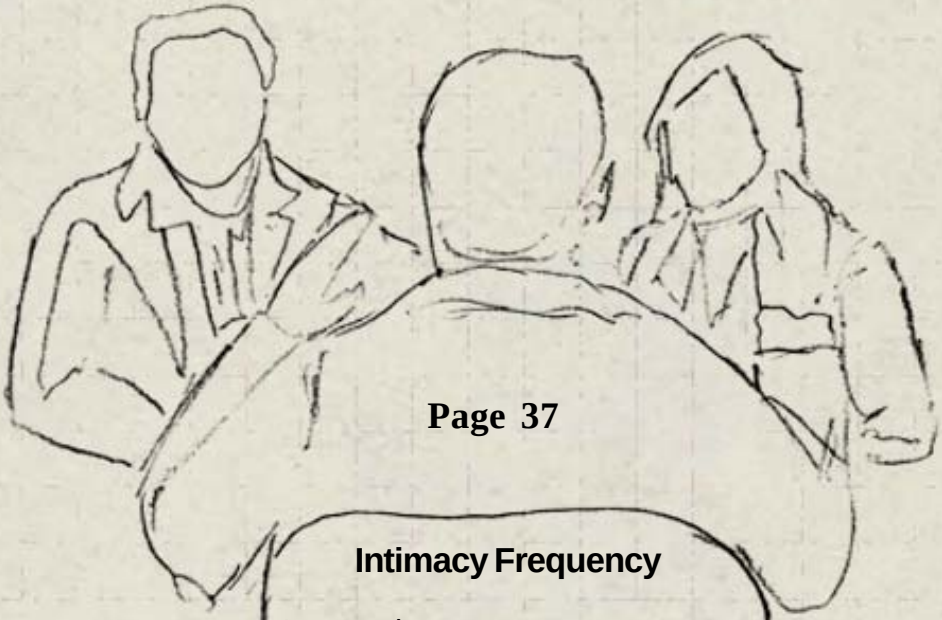




## Incomplete Man

Egbert said, "I read somewhere that man is incomplete before he is married.

Perhaps that why when he is married he is 'finished.'"





## Intimacy Frequency

I guess that you may want to know how often we have intimacy.

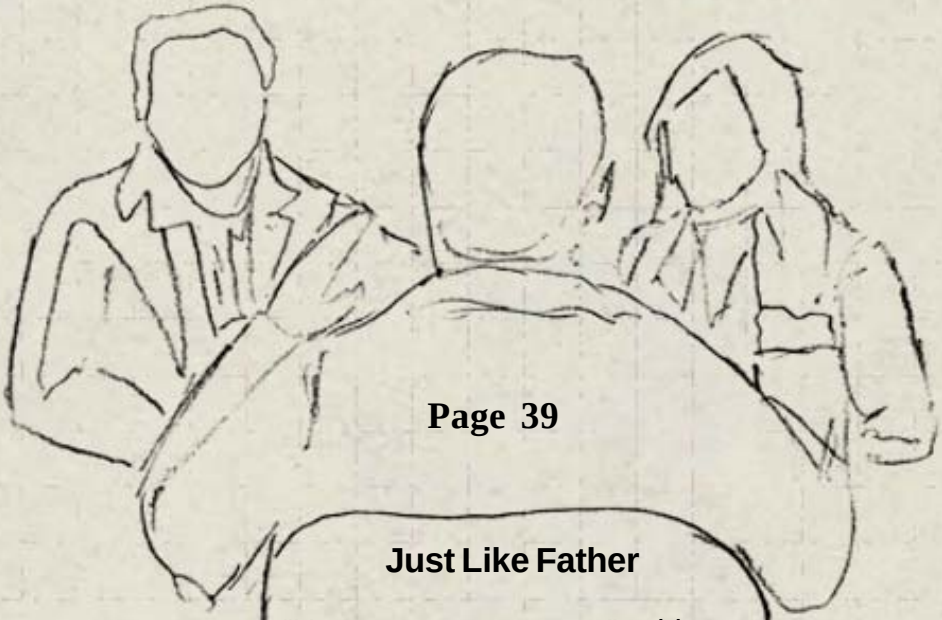
Well, to save you having to ask, I will tell you. We have it almost every night.

Yes, that's right, we have it almost every night.

On Mondays we almost have it, on Tuesdays we almost have it…

## I've Come on my Own

"I've come to see you on my own," said Maggie, "because my husband Egbert has threatened to murder anybody that talks to me outside of our immediate family."



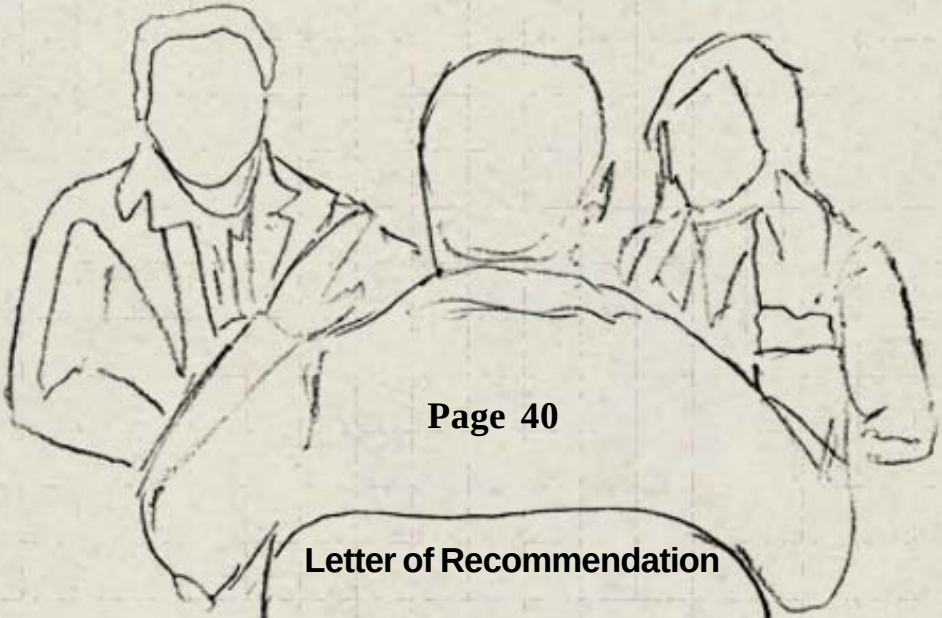


## Just Like Father

"Upon my engagement," said recently married Maggie, "I went to my mother and said, "I've found a man just like father!"

Mother replied, "So what do you want from me, sympathy?"

"Well," added Maggie, "I seem to need it now".





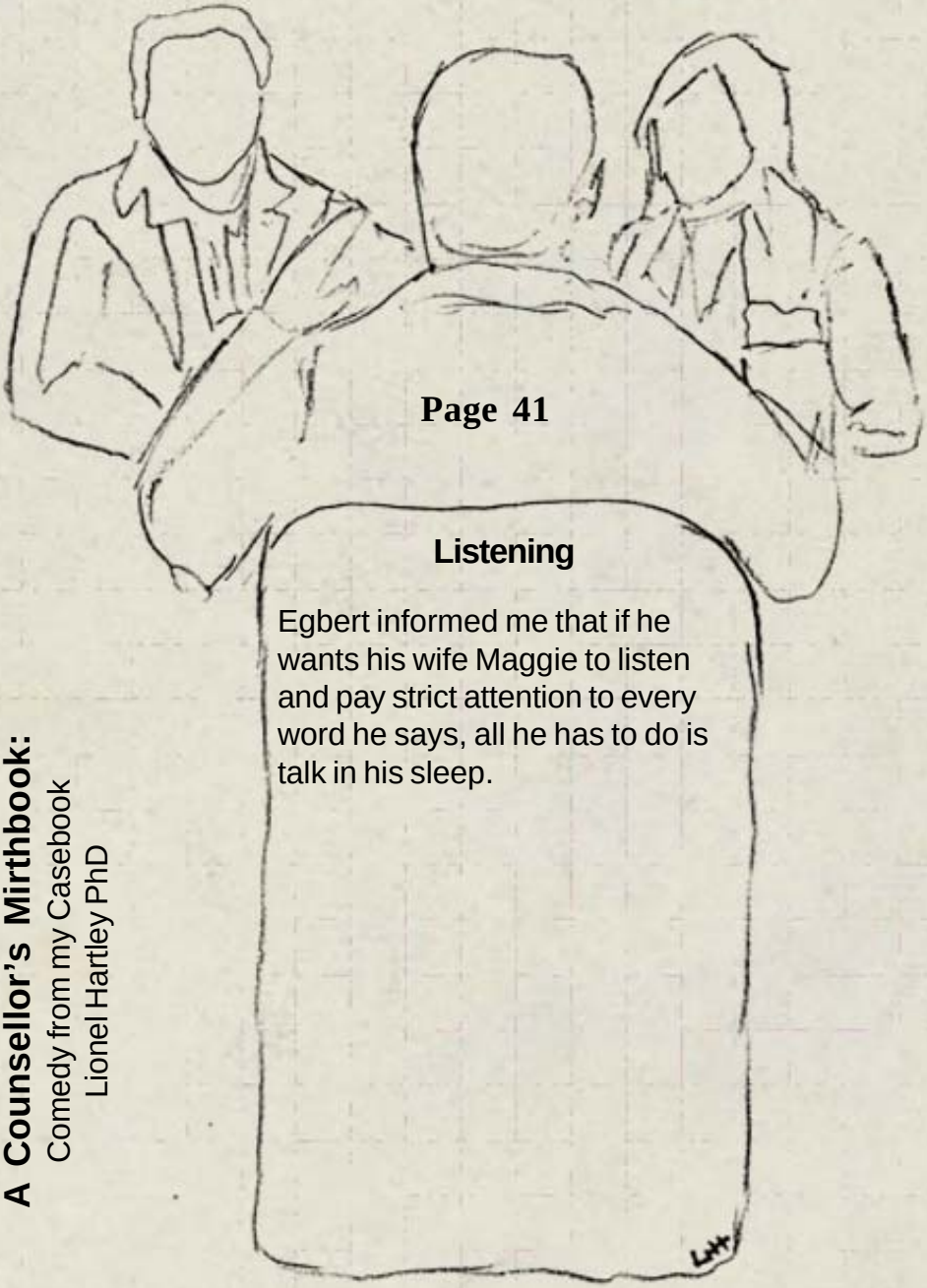
## Letter of Recommendation

When Egbert learned that he was being dismissed from the choir, he went to see the Church Minister.

"Since I've been with the ensemble for so long," he said, "I think I deserve at least a letter of recommendation."

The Minister agreed and said he'd have the letter that next day.

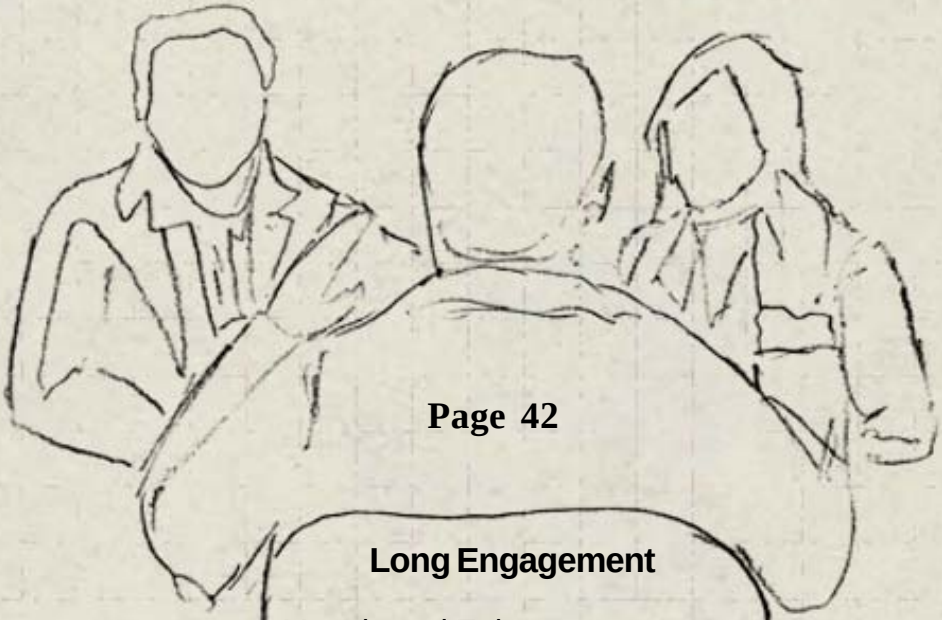
The following morning, Egbert found the letter in his mailbox. It read, *"Egbert Smithson sang in our choir for five years. When he left us, we were very satisfied."*





## Listening

Egbert informed me that if he wants his wife Maggie to listen and pay strict attention to every word he says, all he has to do is talk in his sleep.



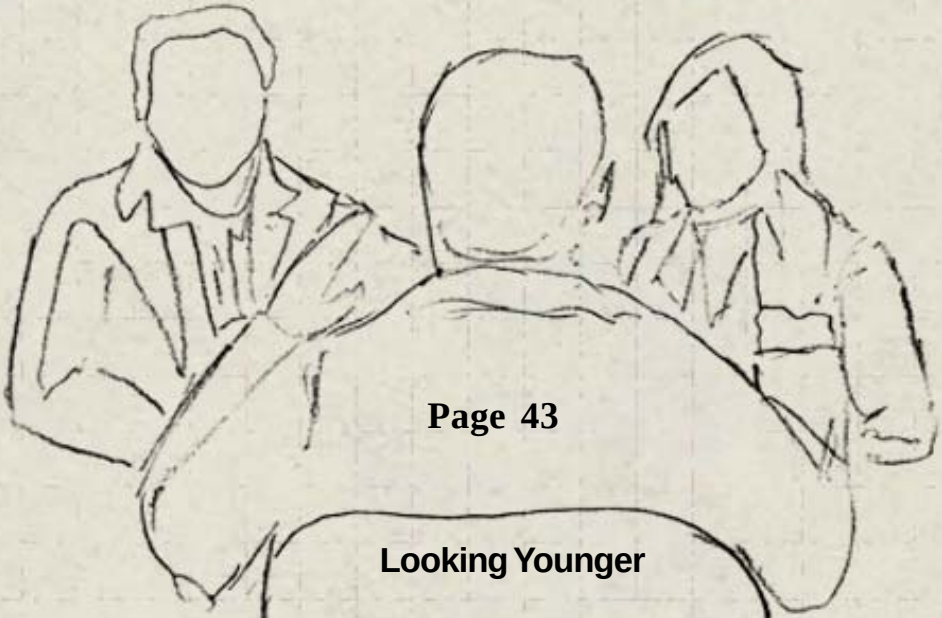


## Long Engagement

Maggie and Egbert came to see me for counselling.

Egbert told me that he wished that they had been engaged for a longer period of time before they got married.

He went on to explain that this would have made their marriage shorter!





## Looking Younger

Egbert's wife bought a new line of expensive cosmetics guaranteed to make her look years younger.

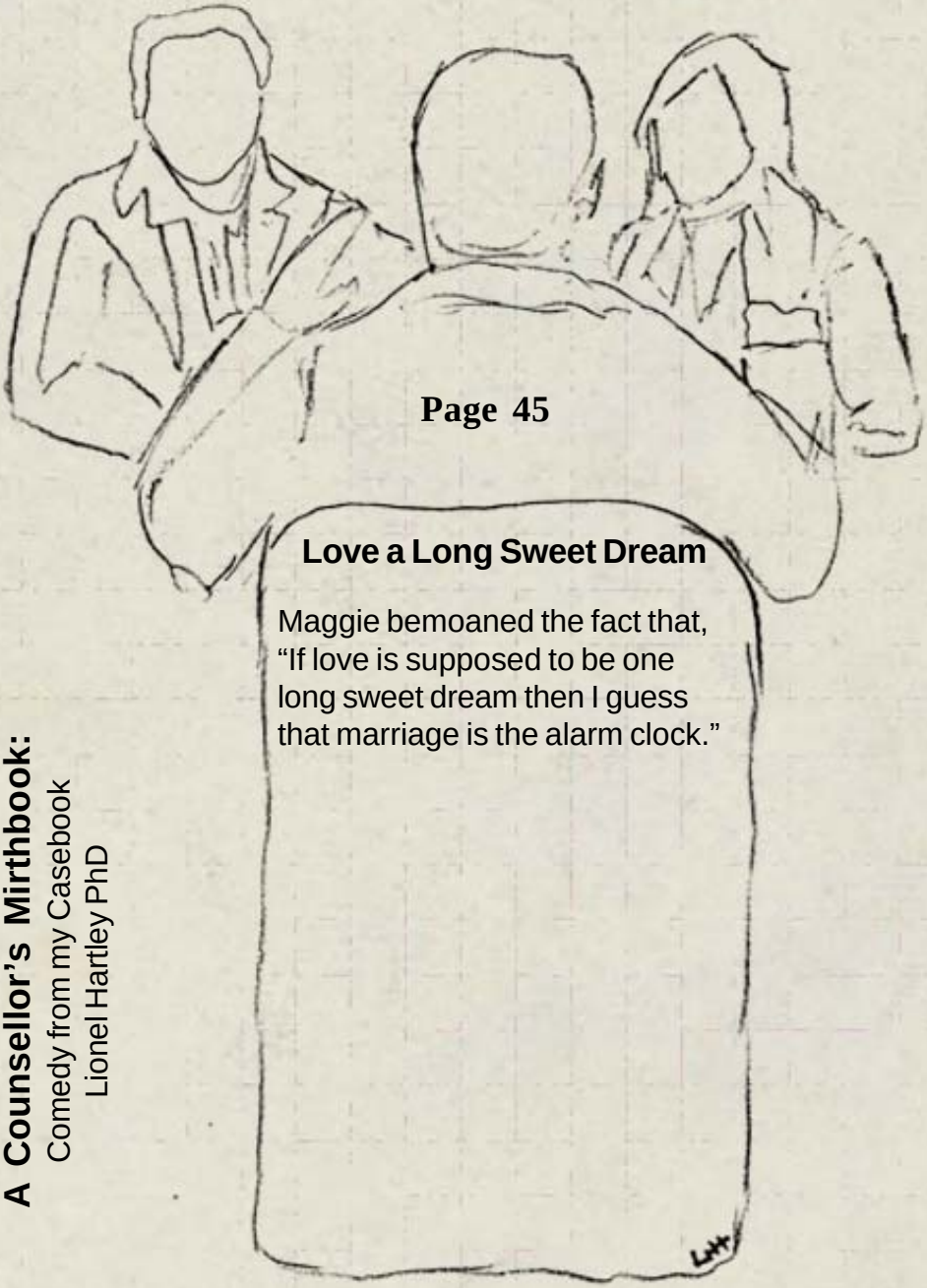
After a lengthy sitting before the mirror applying the "miracle" products, she asked, "Darling, honestly, what age would you say that I look?"

Looking over her carefully, Egbert replied, "Well, Maggie, judging from your skin - twenty, your hair - eighteen; and your figure - twenty five."

LHH

"Oh, you flatterer!" she gushed.

"Hey, wait a minute," Egbert interrupted, "I haven't added them up yet."



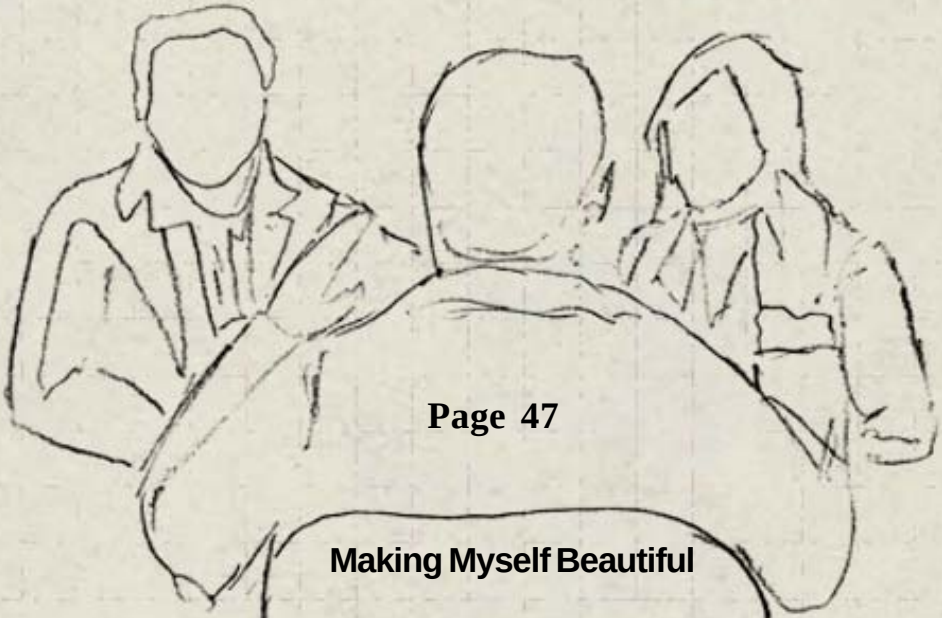


## Love a Long Sweet Dream

Maggie bemoaned the fact that, "If love is supposed to be one long sweet dream then I guess that marriage is the alarm clock."

## Make Something for Dinner

Egbert told me that every time he asked his wife Maggie to make something for dinner, she made 'restaurant table reservations'.





## Making Myself Beautiful

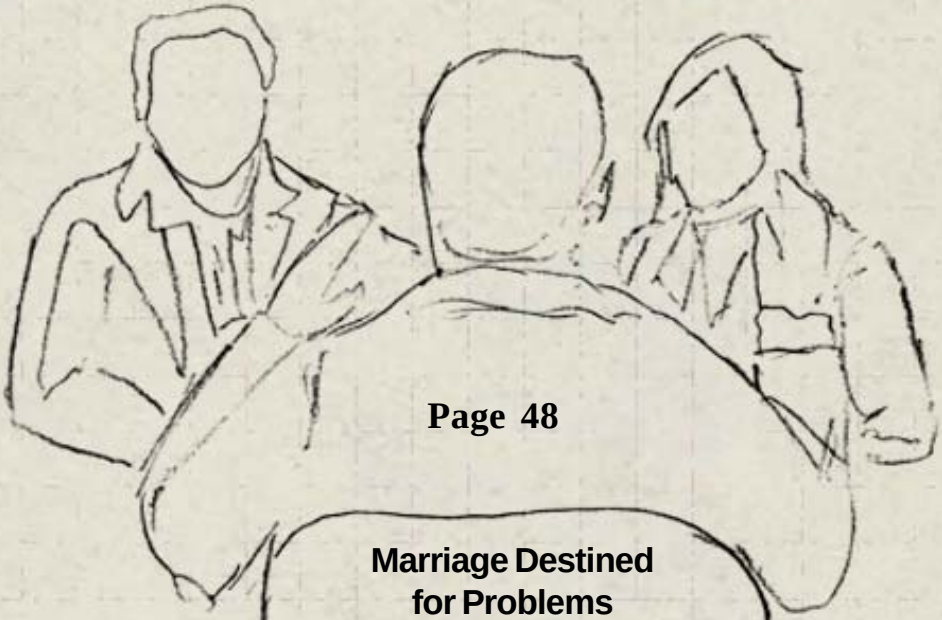
Egbert was fascinated as his new bride smoothed cold cream all over her face.

"What are you doing that for, Maggie?" he asked.

"To make myself beautiful" she said, and then she began removing the surplus cold cream with a tissue.

"What's the matter?" asked Egbert, "You're not stopping, are you? Don't give up now, it hasn't worked yet!"

That was when she telephoned me for an appointment.

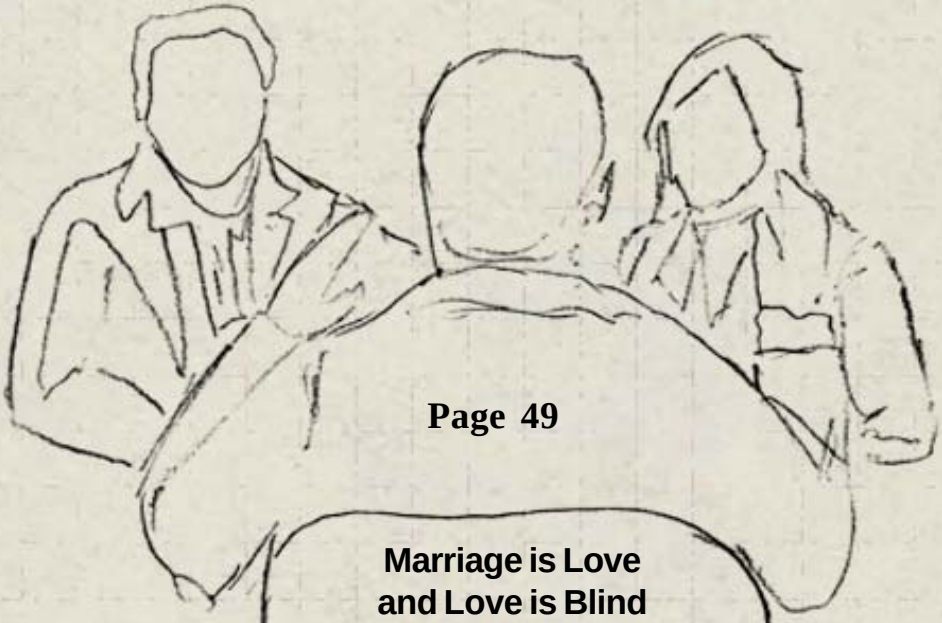




## Marriage Destined for Problems

Maggie said that she knew the marriage was destined for problems even during the wedding ceremony.

When the minister invited her to say 'I do,' and she echoed the words, her groom Egbert interrupted by commenting, 'I don't think I liked the tone of her voice when she said that!'





## Marriage is Love and Love is Blind

Explaining his relationship, Egbert philosophised, "If marriage is love and if love is blind, then marriage must be an institution for the blind."

## Married to Mr Right

(A Lesson in Conflict Resolution)

Egbert was explaining his perspective on the solution to the problem of the arguments that he and Maggie were having.

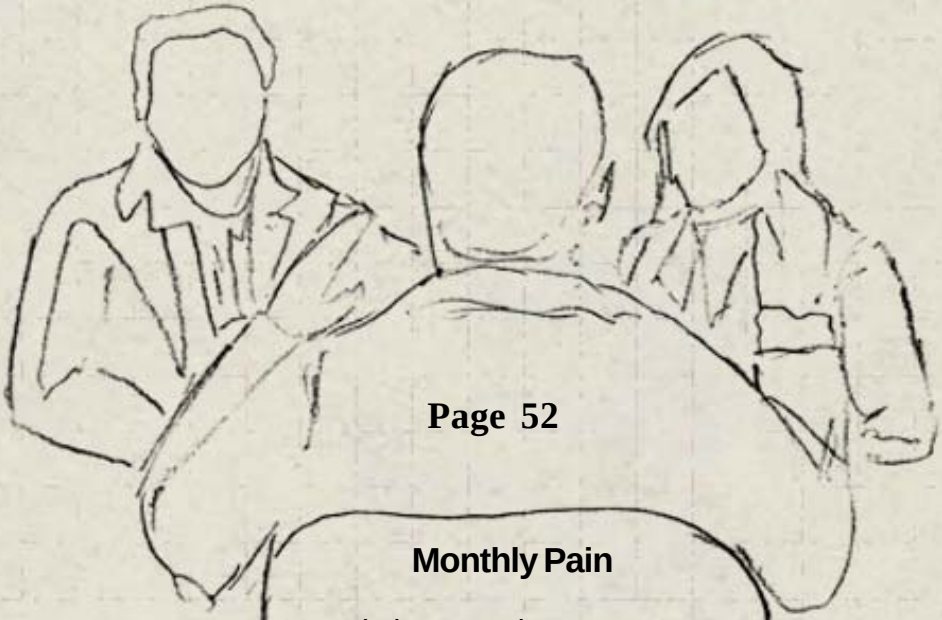
He said, "We would never have any conflict if she wasn't wrong all the time!"

## Millionaire

A client was telling a counselling colleague of mine that her friend was the one who made her husband a millionaire."

The client had asked her friend, "What was he before you married him?"

The friend replied, "A billionaire."



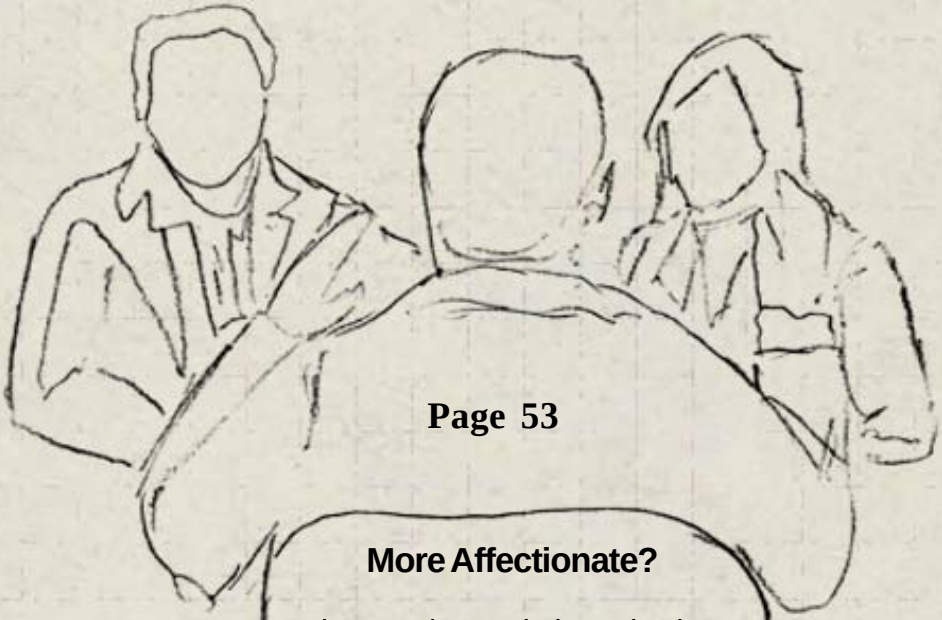


## Monthly Pain

Maggie lamented to me, 'Egbert's lucky. He doesn't have to put up with PMT, monthly cramps, bloated belly, sore breasts, up and down moods, or the fear of pregnancy.'

Then, turning to Egbert, she added, 'You never have to put up with a painful problem every month!'

'Oh yes I do,' responded Egbert, 'every month I have to put up with you!'

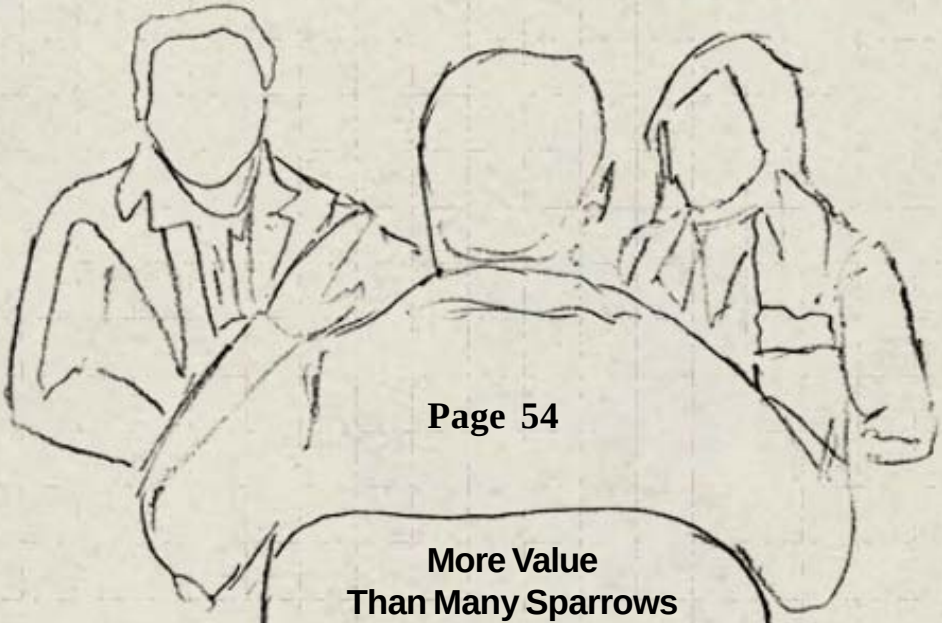




## More Affectionate?

Egbert and Maggie have had an argument.

Egbert explains to me, "Maggie told me I should be more affectionate. So I got myself a girlfriend. Now I can't understand why she's angry, I'm only doing what she asked."

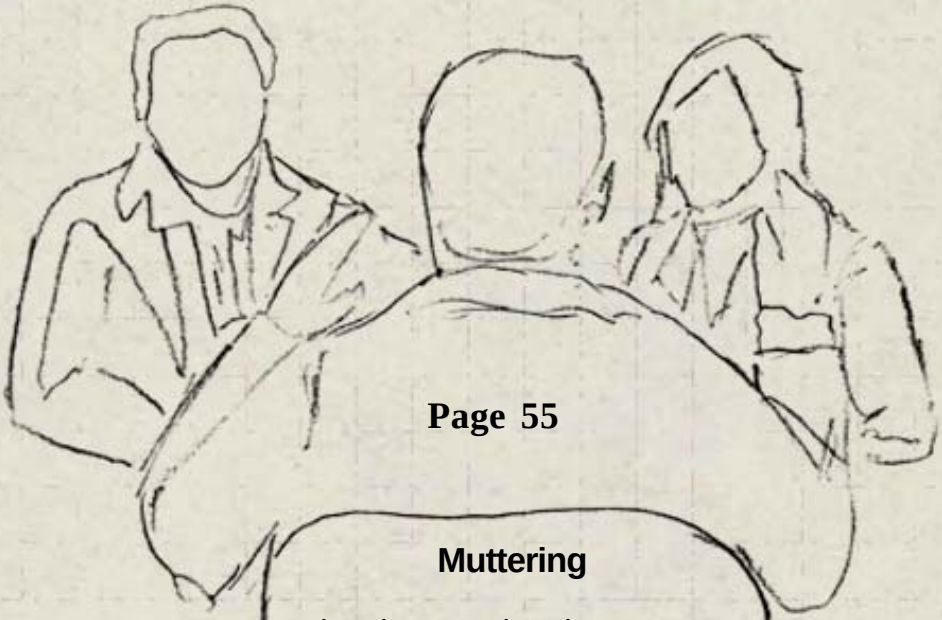




## More Value Than Many Sparrows

Egbert, no doubt familiar with Matthew 10:31 (Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows) insisted that his wife, Maggie, was of more value than many sparrows.

When I asked him to elaborate, he added, "That's because sparrows can't cook!"





## Muttering

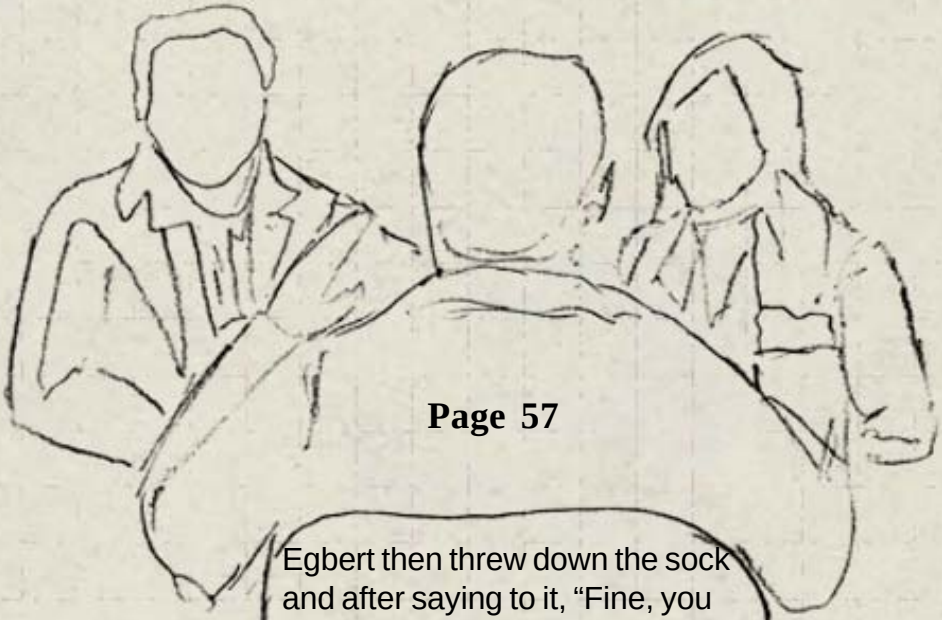
Egbert lamented, "When I muttered a few words in the church, I found myself married. Now that I have muttered something in my sleep and I find myself heading for divorce."

## My Embarrassing Husband

Maggie explained why she didn't like being seen in public with her husband.

Her example, she says, is typical of him: During their courtship, Egbert took her out to dinner and also took a sock puppet to dinner with him. When the waiter came to ask them what they wanted, Egbert consulted the sock. This happened all through the meal.

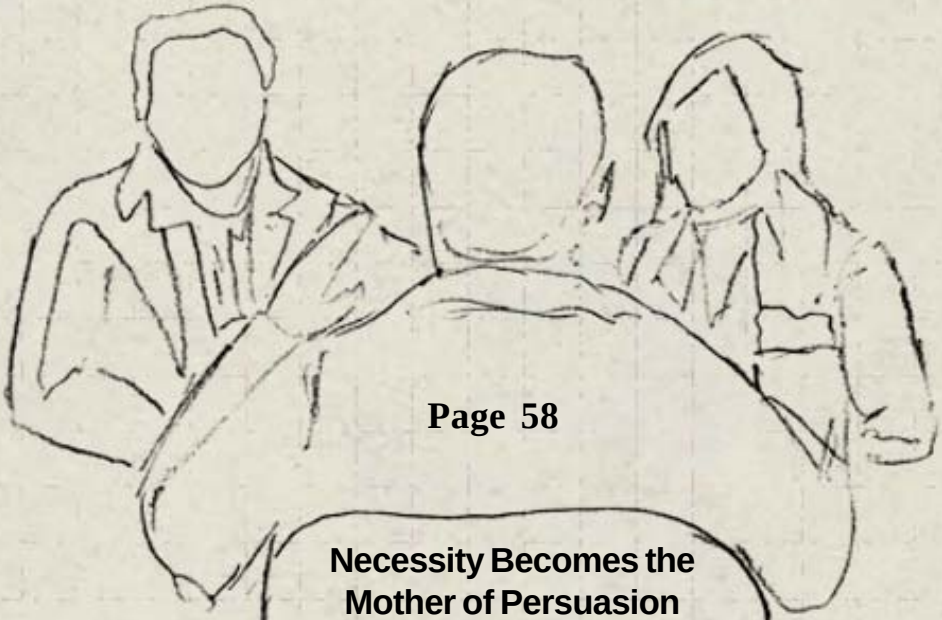
When the cheque came, Egbert loudly argued with the sock so everyone heard him arguing about who would pay the bill.





Egbert then threw down the sock and after saying to it, "Fine, you pay!" he then tried to leave, dragging an embarrassed Maggie with him.

Fortunately he stopped at the front desk and paid before the security staff were called.



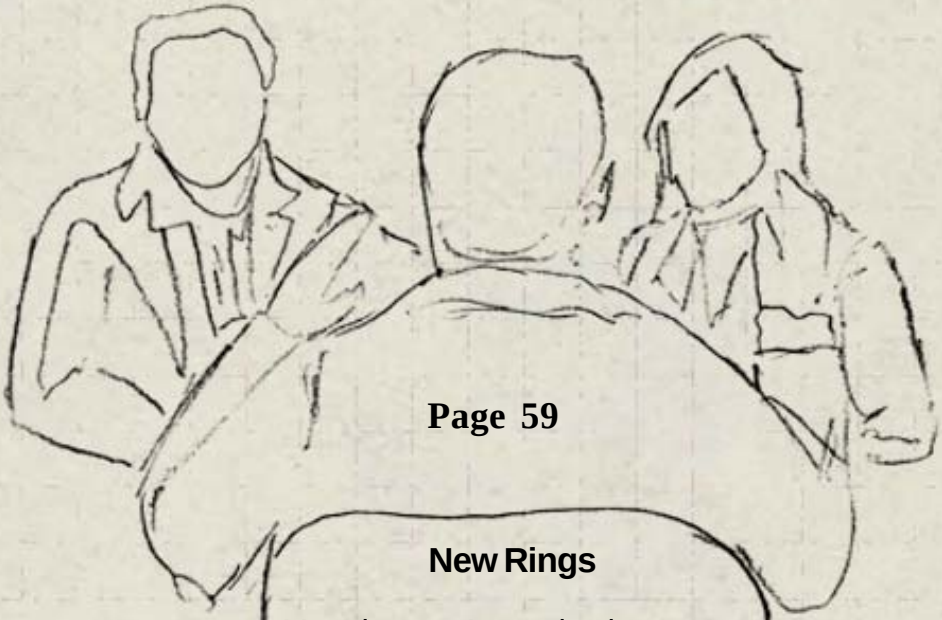


## Necessity Becomes the Mother of Persuasion

Egbert considered it a triumph that he had persuaded his wife, Maggie, to change from playing the piano to learning to play the clarinet.

When I asked during a counselling session why he considered it a triumph, he said, 'Now I don't have to listen to her awful attempt at singing!' (

I later found out that when he put up a sign selling the piano, the neighbour also put up a sign with the word "Hurrah!")





## New Rings

Maggie wasn't wearing her wedding ring and her husband Egbert asked her why.

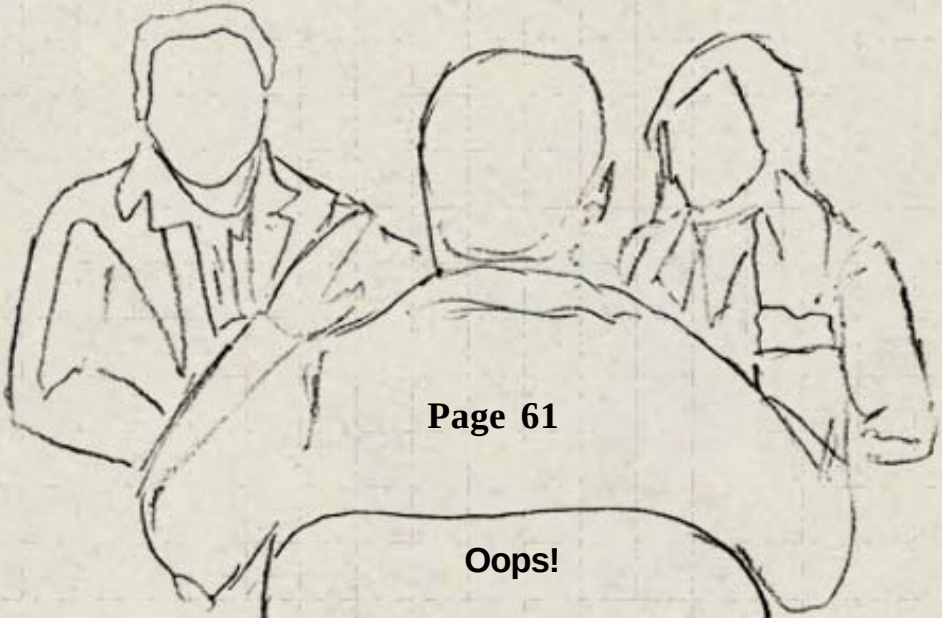
She replied, "Before we married you gave me an engagement ring. On our wedding day you gave me a wedding ring. Now I don't need I don't need to wear them on my finger anymore as I have two new rings— the endu*ring* and the suffe*ring*."

## No complaints

Egbert, with a voice of resignation said, "I guess that I really can't complain. You see, it is my fault, really.

Before we were married I vowed that I would be willing to go through hell for her.

Now that we are married she is keeping me up to it. I am going through hell."





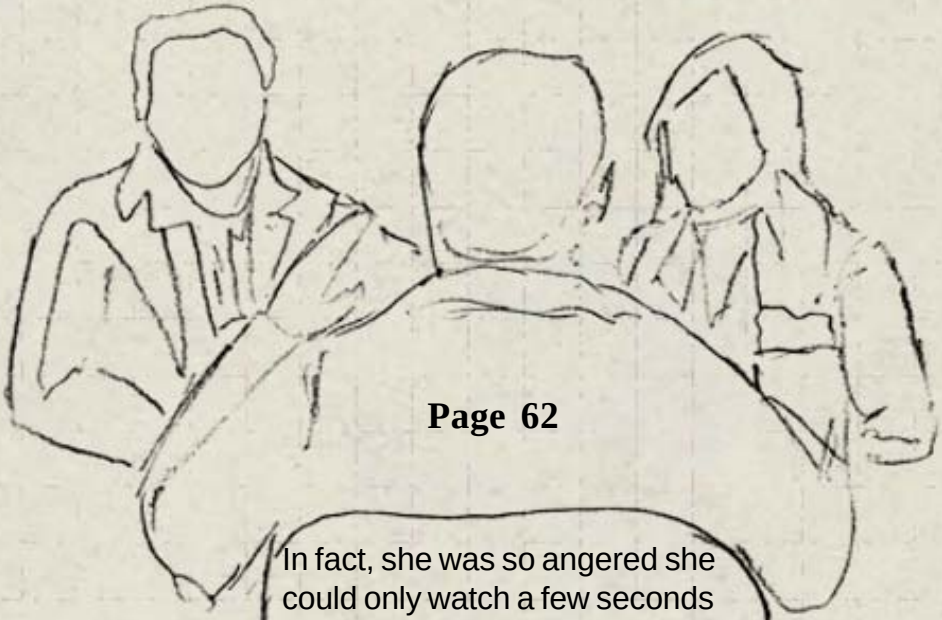
**Oops!**

Maggie and Egbert explained that their day had started of well when they had commented to each other that their teenage son Fred seemed to spend a lot of time in his room studying.

Later that day while Maggie was cleaning, she became upset when she found a supposed pornographic video 'hidden' in Fred's room.

What really got her boiling was when she checked it out on their lounge-room VCR and saw her husband on the screen!

LHH





In fact, she was so angered she could only watch a few seconds of the video before she threw a table lamp through the TV set, destroying both the lamp and the TV.

For three days she had refused to speak with Egbert and only in counselling would she listen long enough for him to explain that the video wasn't pornographic.

What she had seen in those brief moments was her husband, wearing swimming shorts, while on a fishing trip with their son a few weeks earlier. The video had, in fact, been recorded to be used as a surprise Mother's day gift for Maggie.

## Marriage Like a Violin

Egbert sighed and said, "I discovered after the honeymoon that our marriage is like my violin.

Even after the music is over, all the strings are still attached."

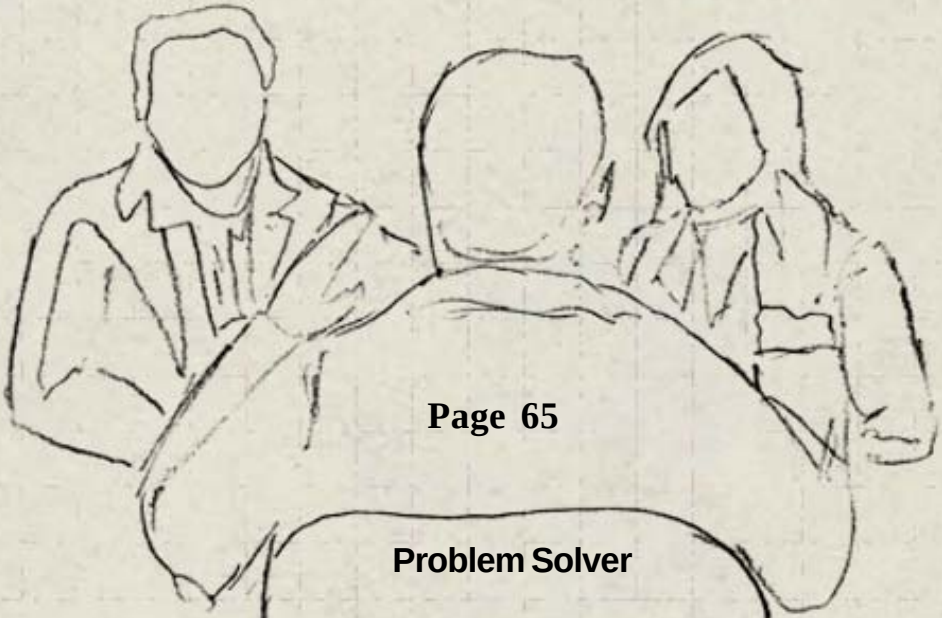
## Playing Bridge

Egbert and Maggie had been arguing before they came to see me and were ready to continue their argument in my clinic.

"He won't let me join a Bridge Club", wailed Maggie.

"Oh, yes I will", argued Egbert, "I am VERY keen for you to play bridge."

And then after a pause, he added, "I'll even show you which bridge I want you to jump from!"





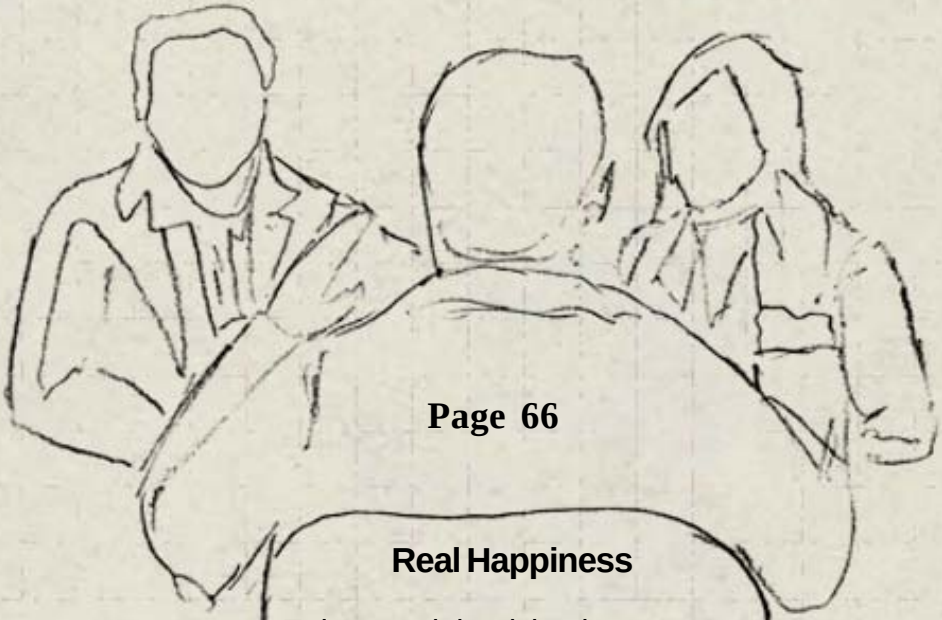
## Problem Solver

During a counselling session a Egbert, whose wife Maggie had said that she no longer loved him, asked her why she always carried his photo in her handbag.

Maggie replied, "When there is a problem, no matter how impossible, I look at your picture and the problem disappears."

"Then you must still love me!" Egbert exclaimed.

"Actually," Maggie responded," Every time I see your picture, I say to myself, 'What other problem can there be that is greater than this one?'

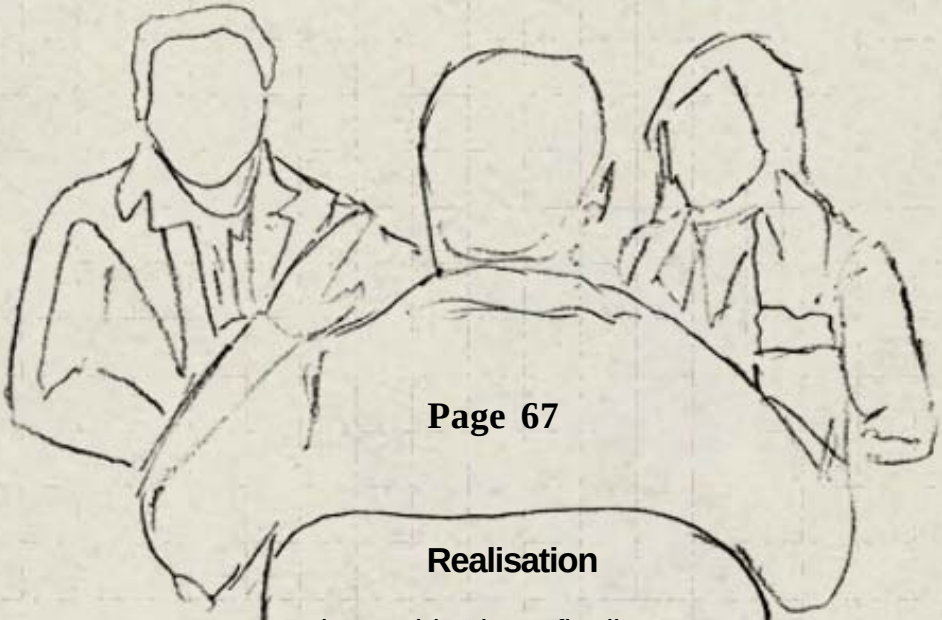




## Real Happiness

Egbert explained that he never knew what real happiness was until he got married to Maggie; but by then, he says, it was too late to ever have it again.

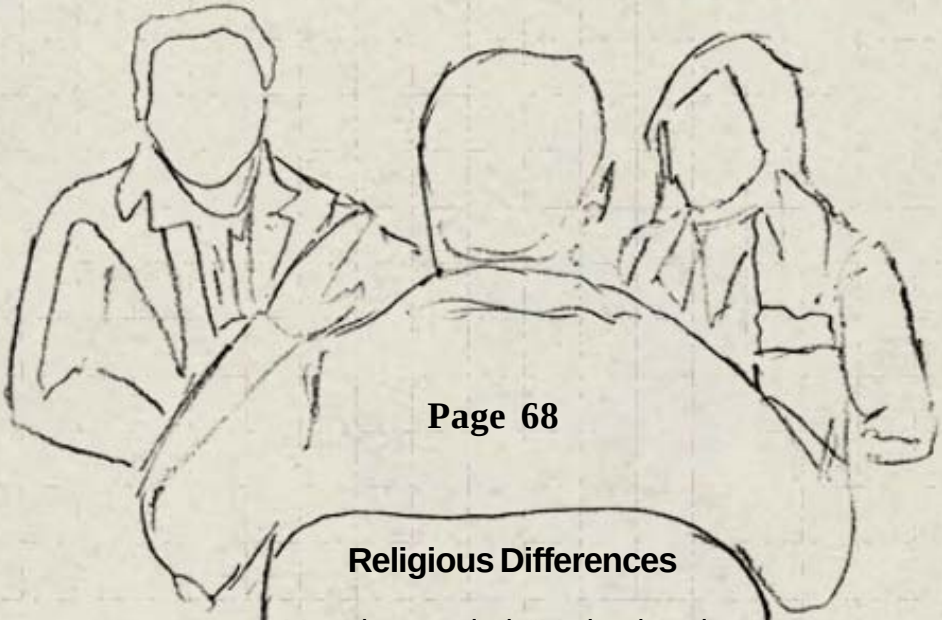
(Fortunately counselling helped him to change that belief.)





## Realisation

Egbert said, "I have finally come to the realisation that marriage is a very expensive way to get your laundry done for free."

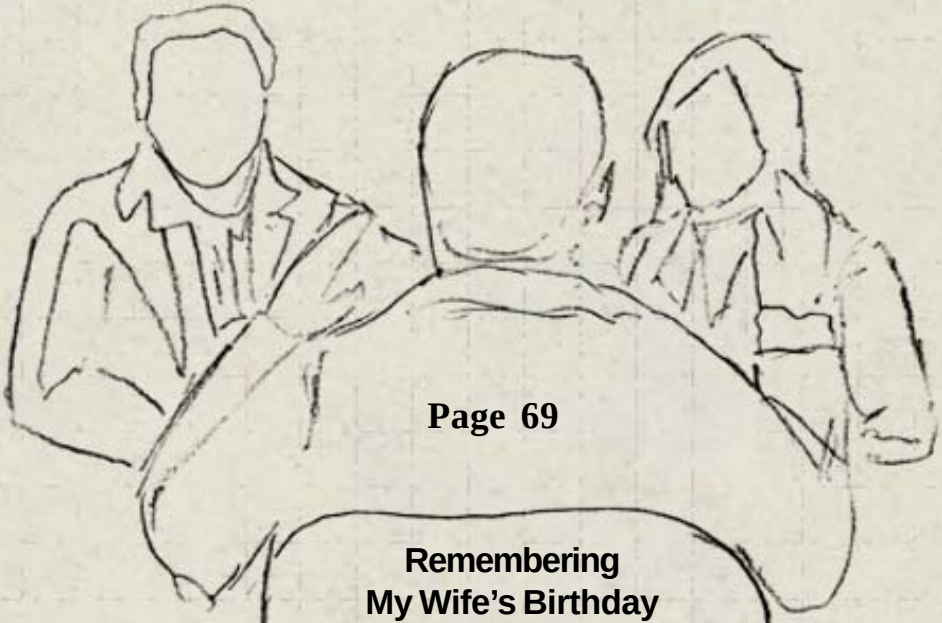




## Religious Differences

Maggie revealed, "My husband and I continually argue over religious differences.

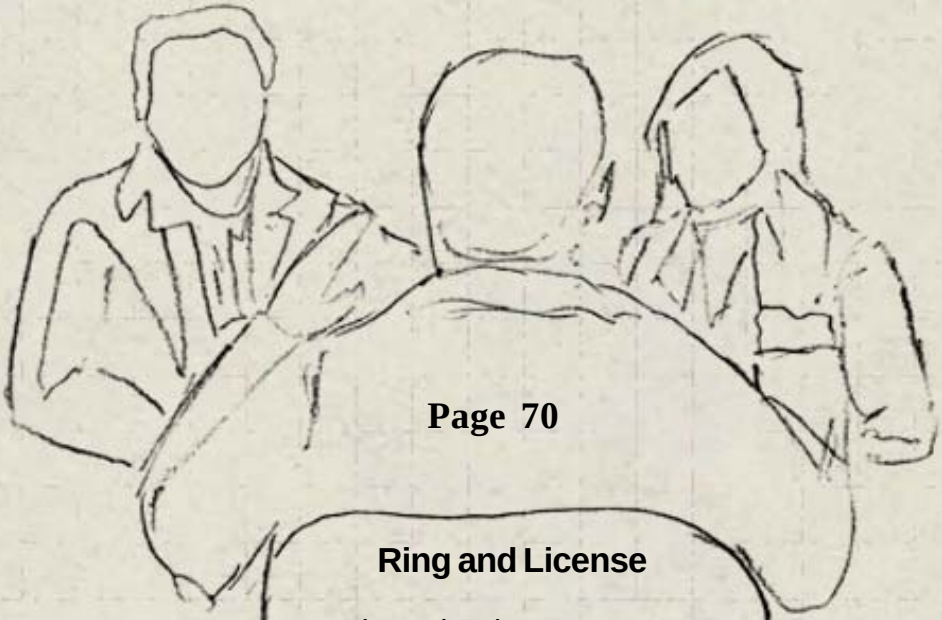
He thinks that he is God, and I don't."





## Remembering My Wife's Birthday

Egbert announced that he had learned that the most effective way to remember his wife Maggie's birthday was to forget it once.



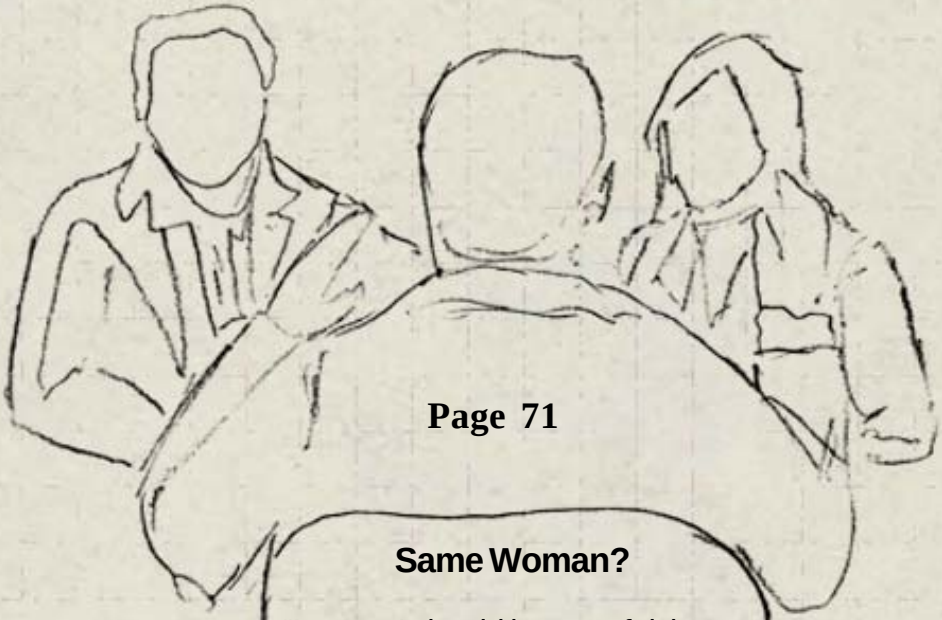


## Ring and License

Maggie and Egbert were arguing.

She explained that the proof of their marriage was the marriage license and their wedding rings.

Egbert countered by saying that 'two rings are the makings of a chain' and 'marriage licence' is just another name for 'work permit'!





## Same Woman?

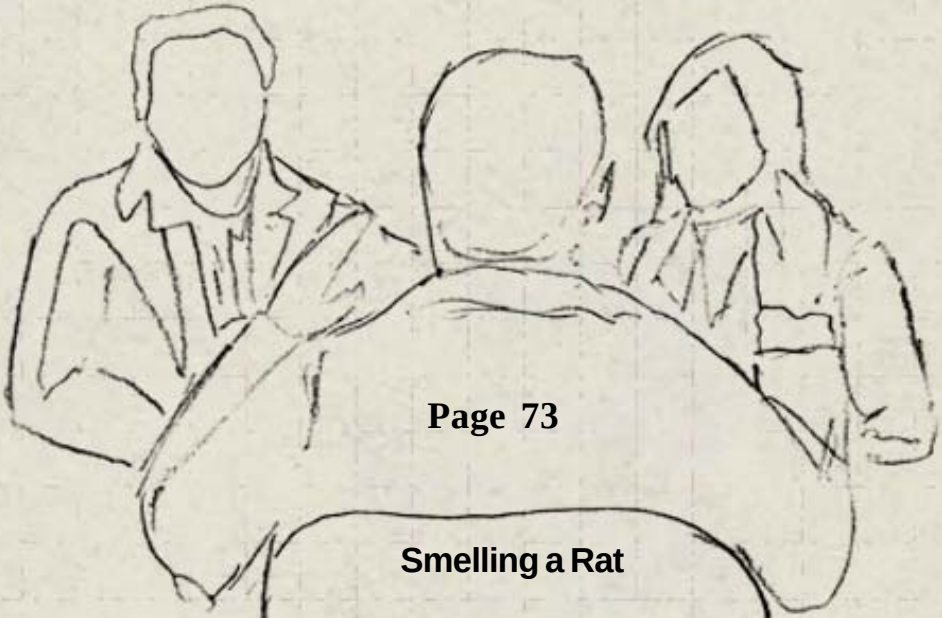
"I guess I should be grateful that Egbert still has the same woman that he married all these years," said Maggie.

To which Egbert retorted, "Same woman? I discovered soon after our honeymoon that you weren't the same woman that I married!"

## Second Marriage

A philisophical Maggie, now in her second marriage said, "Marriage is the triumph of imagination over intelligence.

Second marriage is the triumph of hope over experience".



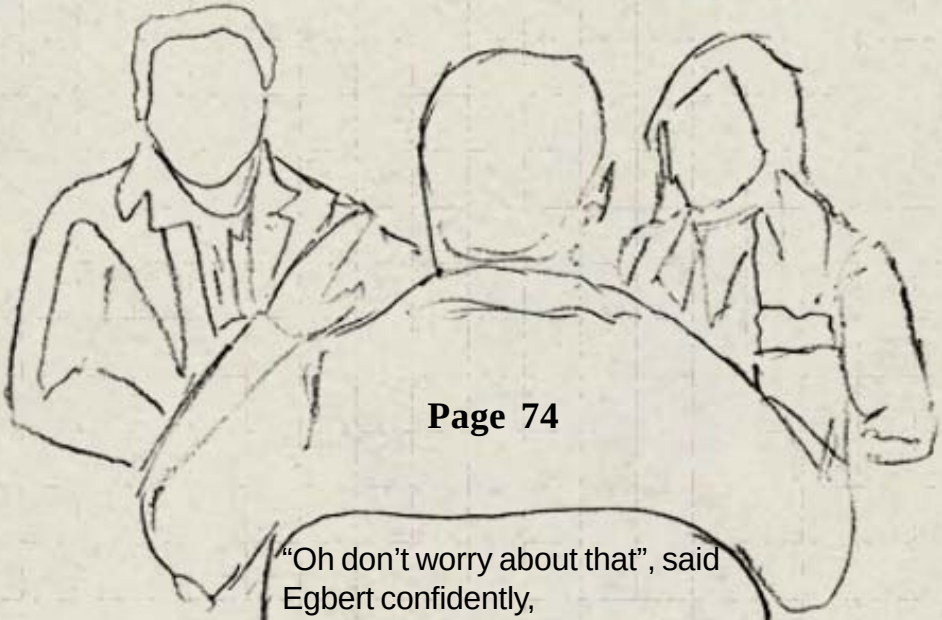


## Smelling a Rat

Maggie tells me that she was complaining to her husband Egbert because he had bought a large white rat as a pet.

Egbert explained to her, "Because we have no children the rat is going to live with us just like one of the family. He'll eat at the same table with us. He'll have the run of the house. He'll even sleep in the same bed with you and me."

"But won't he try to run away? And what about the hygiene and smell problem?", She asked.

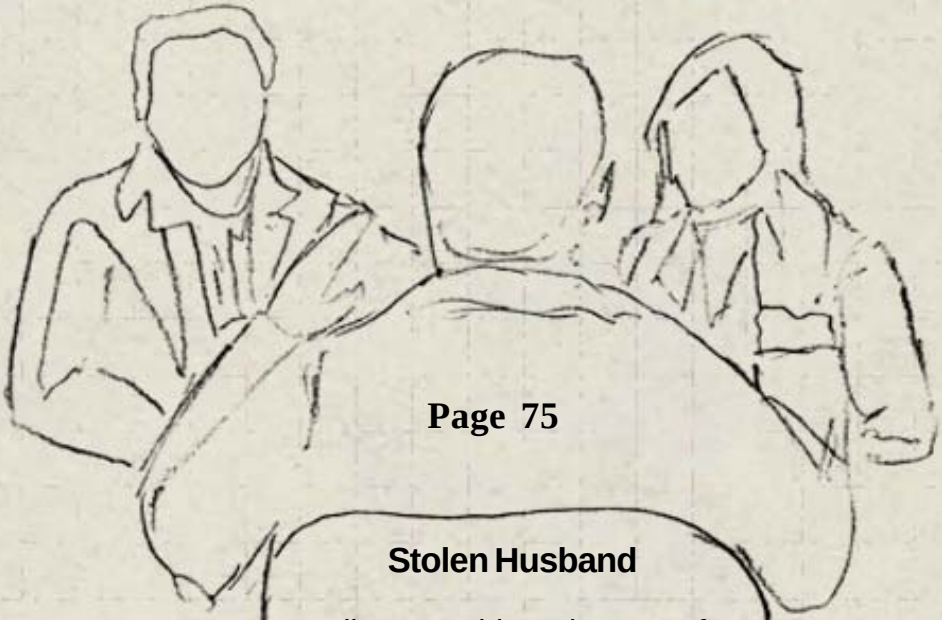




"Oh don't worry about that", said Egbert confidently,

"He won't run away, and as far as the mess and the stink in the bedroom is concerned he'll just have to get used to it in the same way I had to."

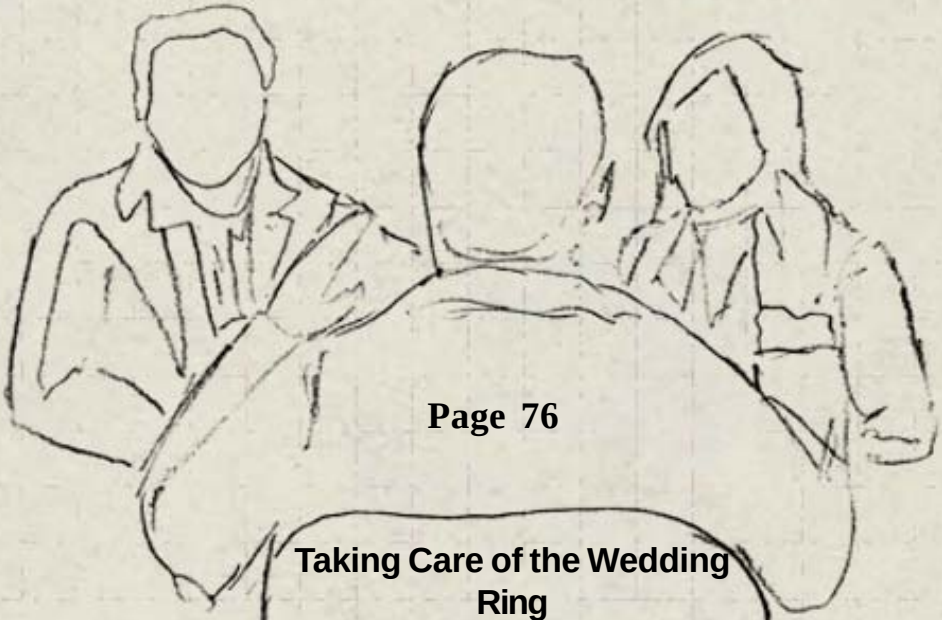
What Maggie said next is unprintable!





## Stolen Husband

A colleague told me that one of his clients said, "When a woman steals your husband, there is no better revenge than to let her keep him".



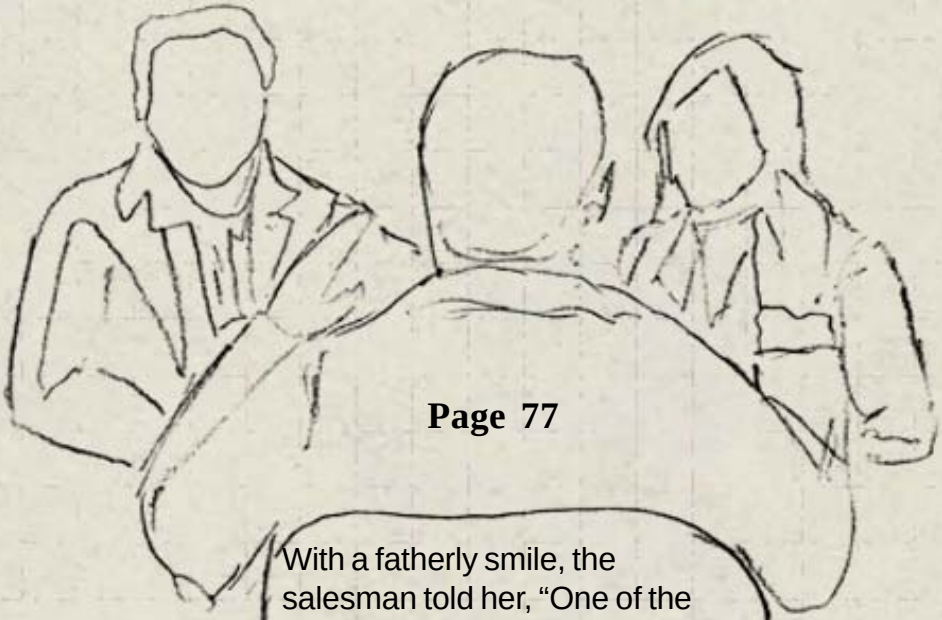


## Taking Care of the Wedding Ring

Egbert and Maggie had been married for many years, however Egbert was becoming increasingly frustrated that Maggie would not let him assist in the kitchen.

Maggie explained that when she was a young bride-to-be she, with Egbert had just selected her wedding ring.

As she admired the plain gold band she had chosen she asked the rather elderly salesman, "Is there anything special I have to do to take care of this ring?"





With a fatherly smile, the salesman told her, "One of the best ways to protect a wedding ring is to soak it in dishwater three times a day."

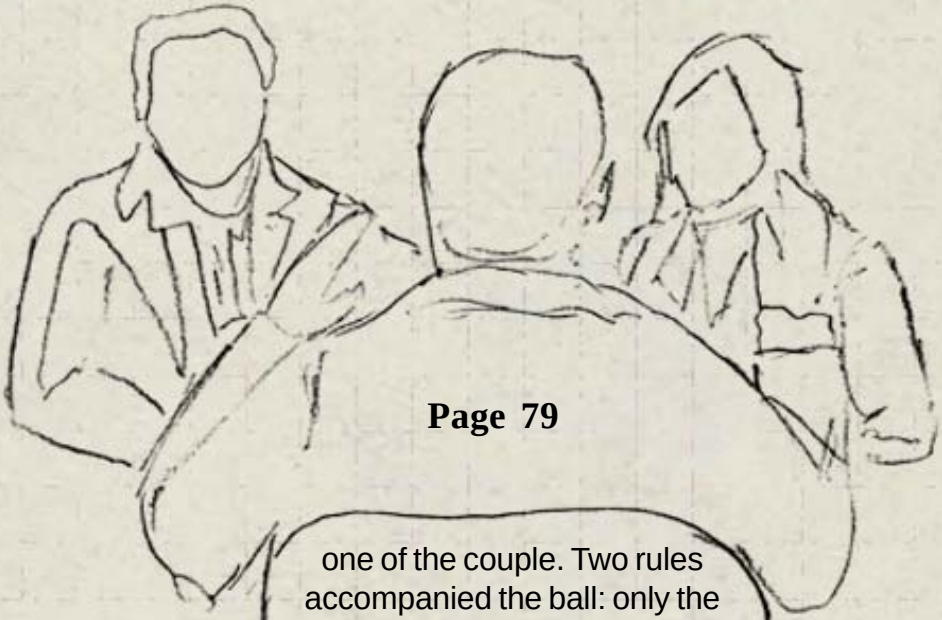
(If you think dishwashing is only women's work, read Mark 7:11-8 which talks about men doing the washing-up and 2 Kings 21:13 which talks about men drying the dishes.)

'Men, be prepared to put your arms into her sink before you expect her to sink into your arms.'
—Lionel Hartley, 'Thank God For Sex', Stereo Publications, Christchurch, 1976

## Talking Together

"You asked if we talk together? Well, in the first year of our marriage, I spoke and she listened.
In the second year, she spoke and I listened. In the third year, we both spoke and the neighbours listened, and now in our fourth year neither of us speak and the neighbours are doing the talking."

On a more serious note, one of the techniques that I used successfully in counselling was the rubber hearing (listening) aid. An ordinary soft rubber ball (the size of a tennis ball) was given to



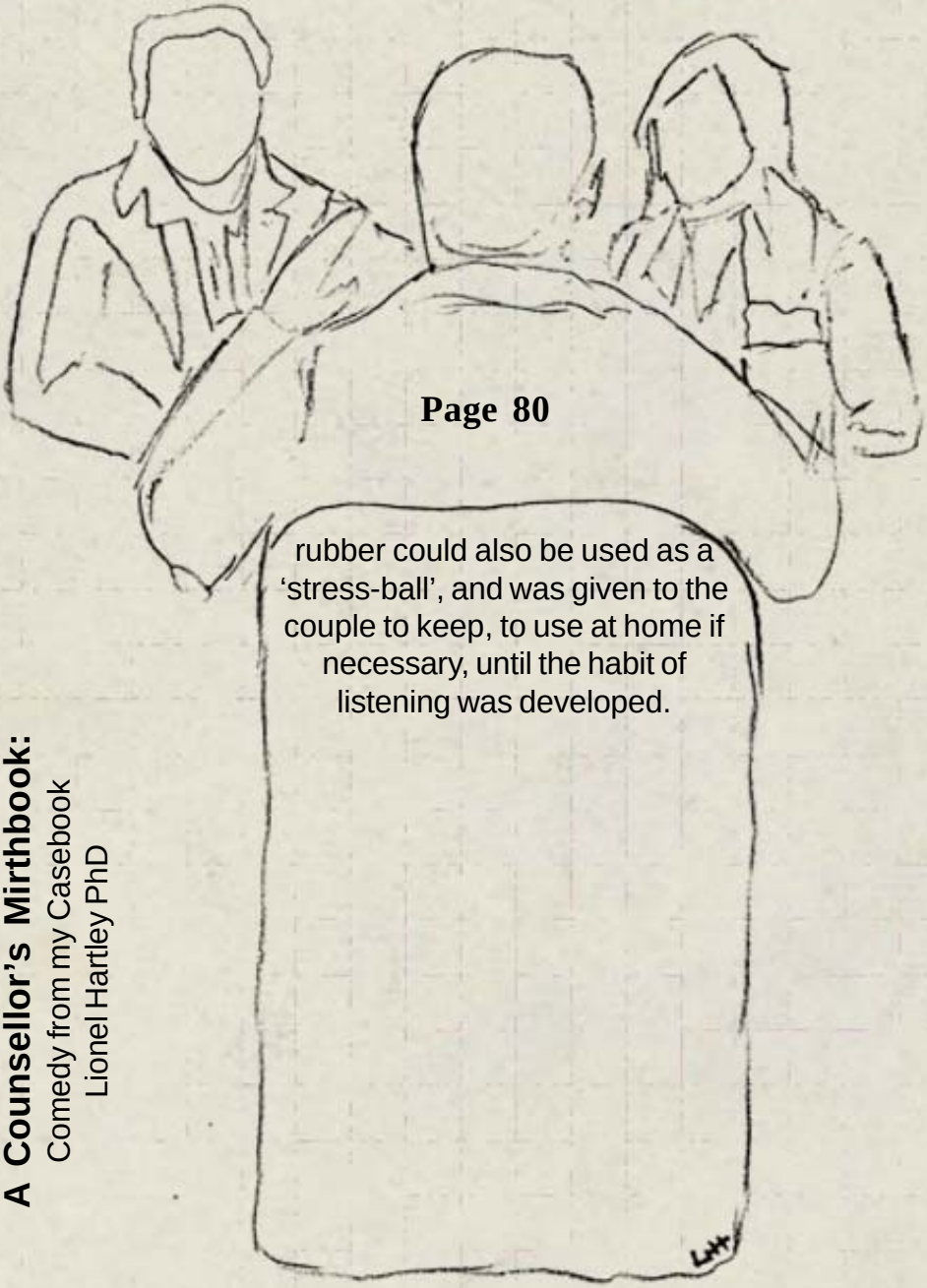


one of the couple. Two rules accompanied the ball: only the person holding the ball could speak (as long as he or she held the ball), and the other was to listen — not to think about what he or she would say next — but to actually listen to what was being said while the other spoke.

Once the ball-holder had said what was necessary (without interruption), the ball was handed to the other to hold while he or she verbally reflected back what the first person had said.

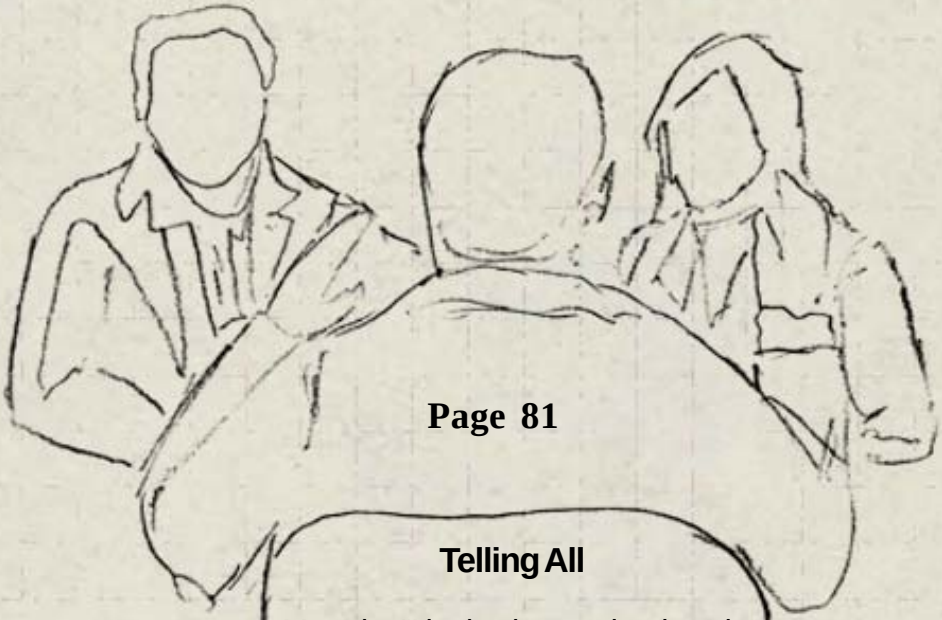
This way each person had an opportunity to talk without interruption or having his or her sentences finished for him or her.

The ball, being made of soft





rubber could also be used as a 'stress-ball', and was given to the couple to keep, to use at home if necessary, until the habit of listening was developed.

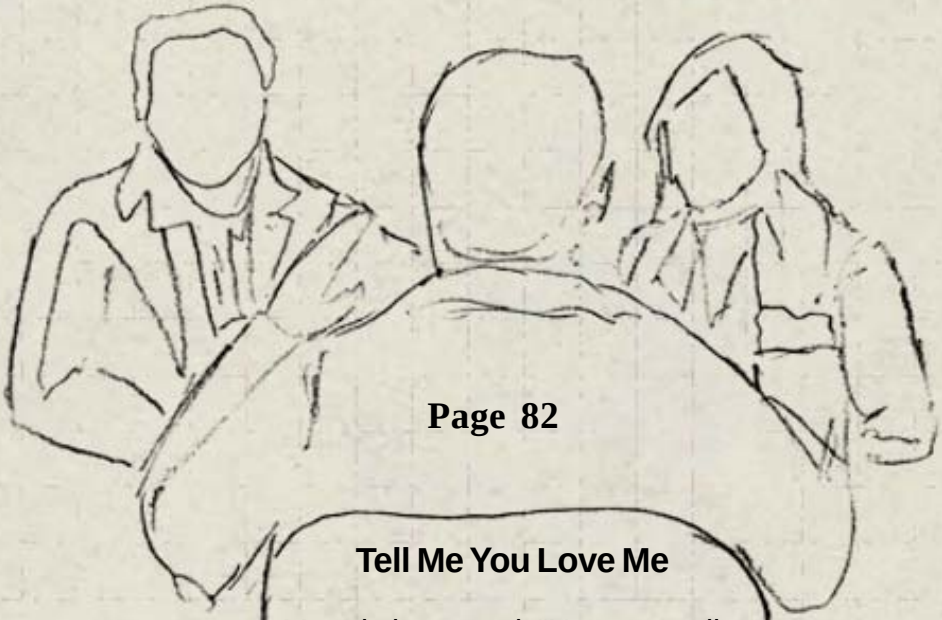




## Telling All

Maggie: "I insist that my husband Egbert tells me in advance what he is thinking or doing."

Egbert: "I don't need to — she already knows what I'm thinking and the neighbours tell her what I'm doing!"

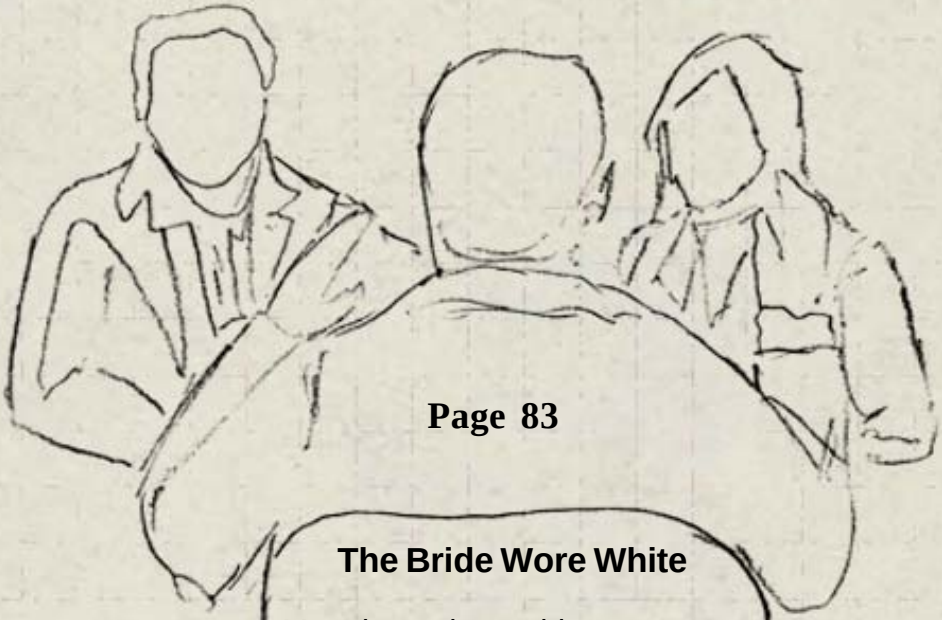




## Tell Me You Love Me

Maggie lamented, "He never tells me that he loves me!"

Egbert replies, "I do so! I told you twice before we were married and once on our wedding night. And, if I change my mind, I'll tell you."



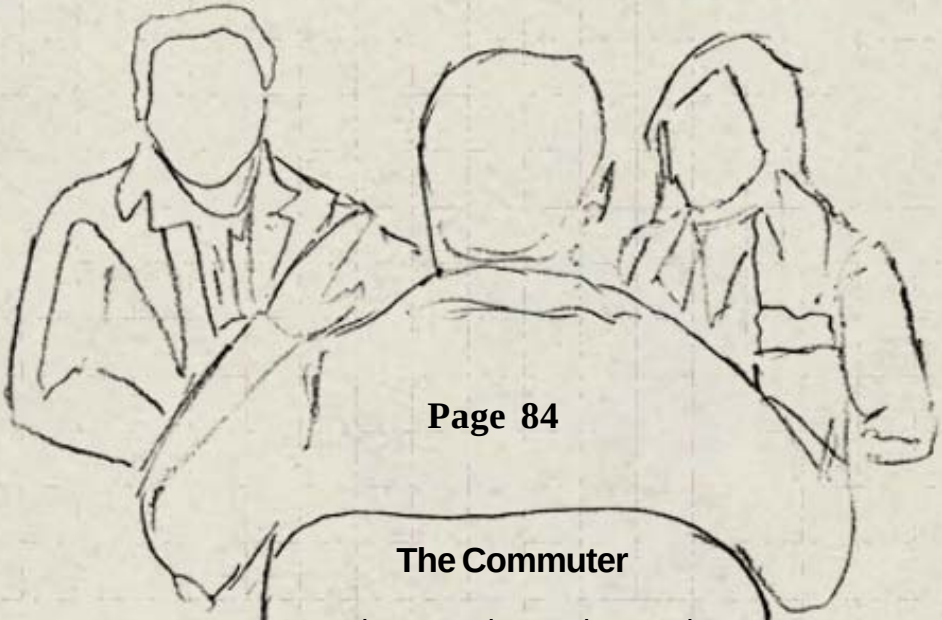


## The Bride Wore White

Maggie made a snide comment about her husband Egbert when she said that at their wedding 'the bride wore white for purity and yet the groom wore black!'

Egbert was quick to insist that the reason that the bride wore white was that 'all home appliances come in white!' -

Much work was needed in restoring their relationship.

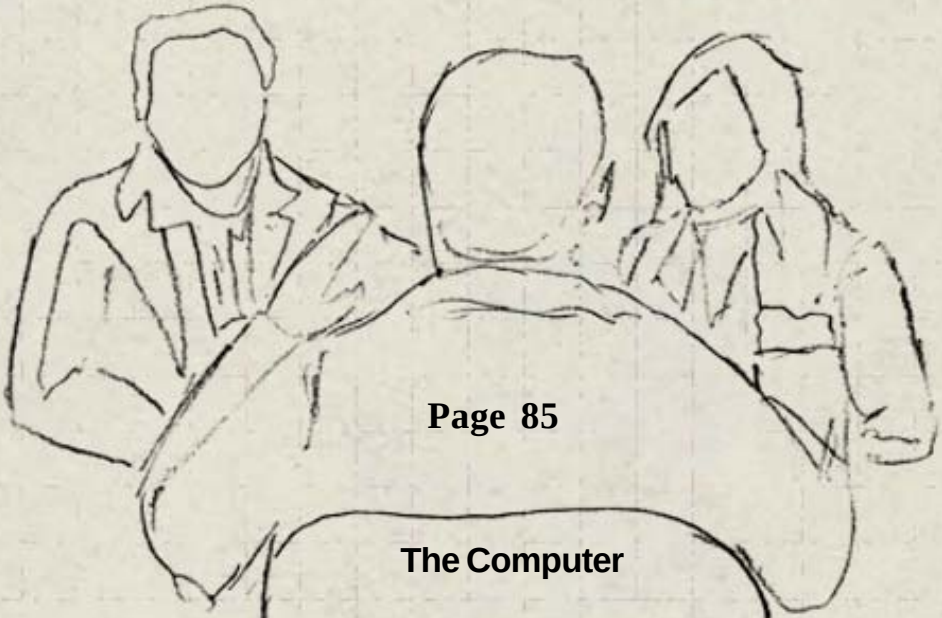




## The Commuter

Maggie wanted to exchange the double bed for twin beds.

Egbert stated that his employment dictated that for five days a week he commuted 'to and fro' and he argued that he didn't want to have to do the same thing at night.





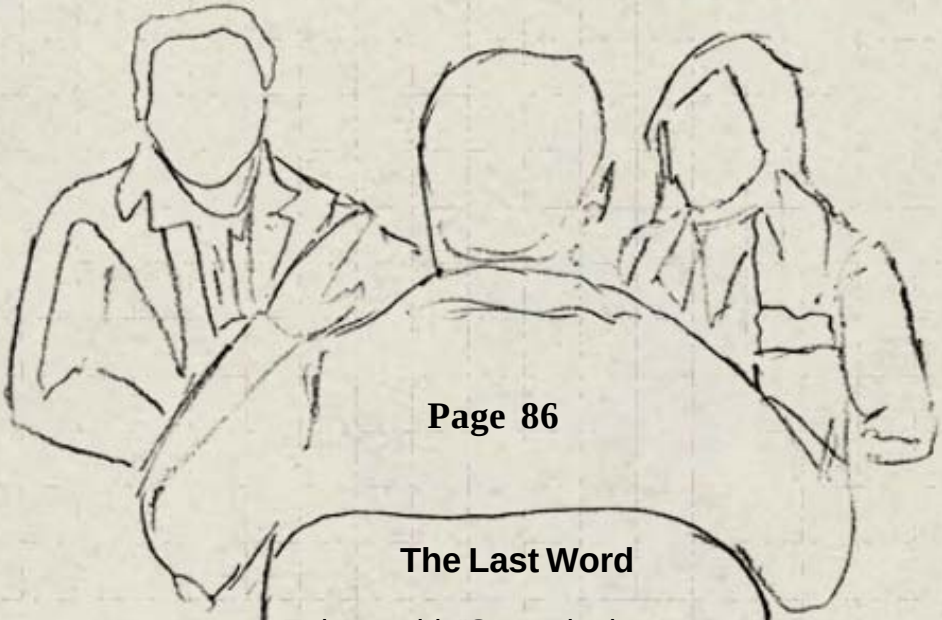
## The Computer

Egbert proudly informed me that his wife Maggie often referred to him as 'the Computer of the Family'.

He boasted that it was probably his superior intellect and being able to do several things an once.

However he was quickly deflated when Maggie explained that she likened him to a computer because it seemed as though she had to press the all right buttons and yell at him in order for him to work!

LHH



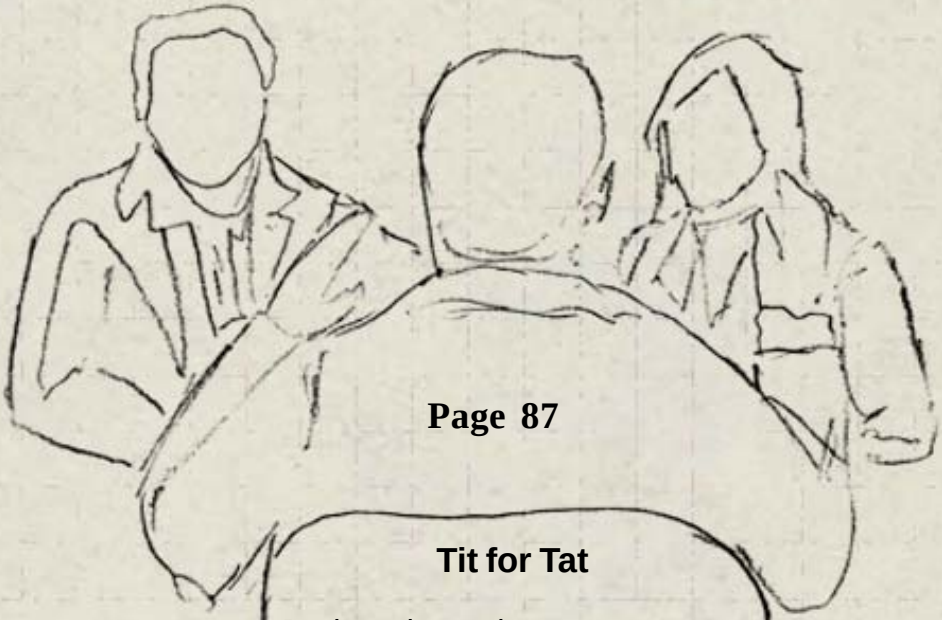


## The Last Word

Egbert said, "Sure, she lets me have the last word, however my last word is always the beginning of another argument!"

Another client on a different occasion said, "I always have the last word, it is 'Yes, dear.'"

Another said, "In our marriage I can prove that am the boss.
I always have the last word on what colour apron to wear."

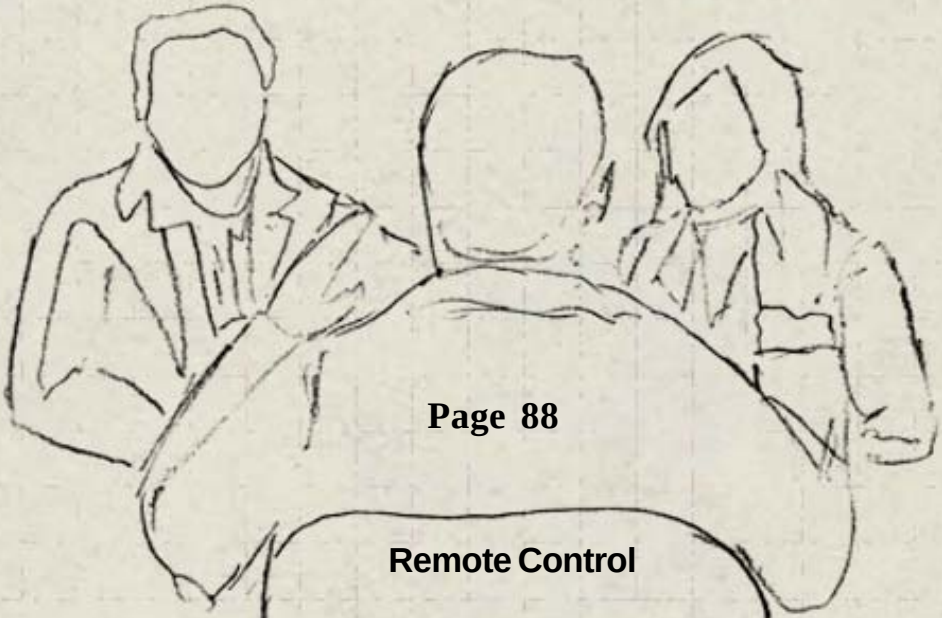




## Tit for Tat

During a heated spat over finances Egbert tells me that he said, "Well, if you'd learn to cook and were willing to clean this place, we could fire the cook and the housemaid."

He told me that Maggie, who was fuming, shot back, "Oh yeah??? Well, if you'd learn how to help with the chores, we could fire the handyman, the chauffeur and the gardener."



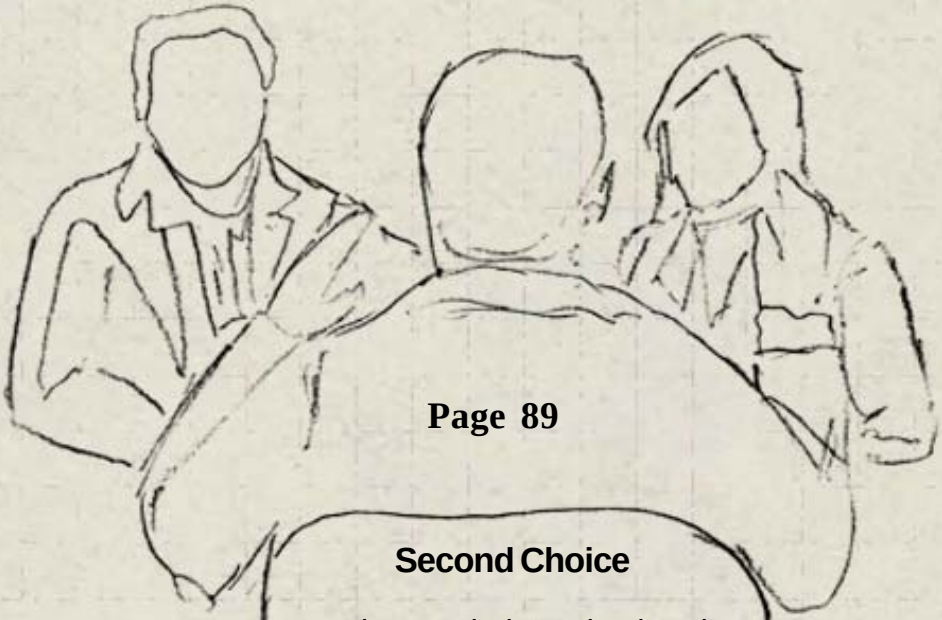


## Remote Control

While Maggie was seeing me for counselling without her husband, she opened her purse to extract a handkerchief, and a remote control for a television or VCR fell out onto her lap.

'Pardon me for asking, but do you always carry a remote control around in your purse?' I questioned.

She replied, 'Oh no, it's just that when my husband Egbert refused to come to counselling with me I figured taking the remote control was the only legal mischief that I could do to him.'

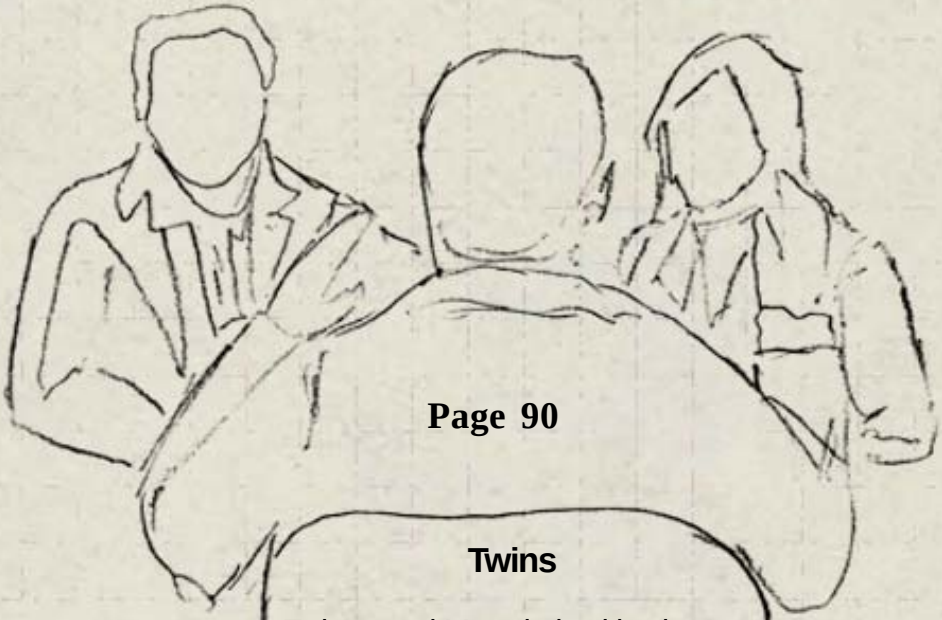




## Second Choice

Maggie revealed, "My husband Egbert was my second choice for marriage …

my first was anybody else."





## Twins

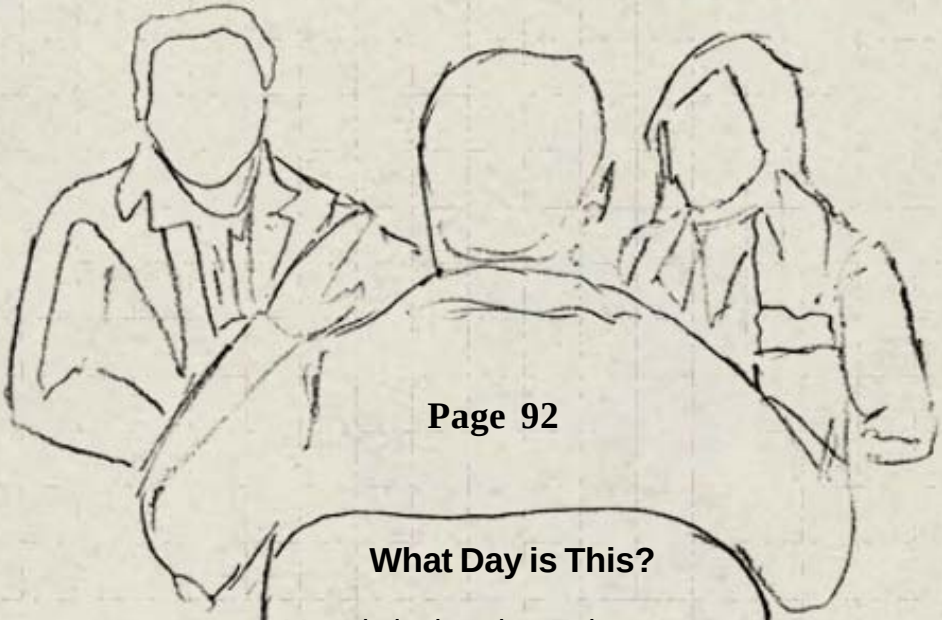
Egbert and Maggie had had an argument.

Maggie, you see, was pregnant and the physician had explained that an ultrasound test had shown that she was to give birth to twins.

Believing that to have twins meant that the mother must have had 'relations' with two different men, Egbert wanted to know "Who the other man was?"

## We Needed a Little Spice

Maggie wailed, 'His sleeping with a cook was not what I had in mind when I suggested to Egbert that we needed a little 'spice' in our private life!'



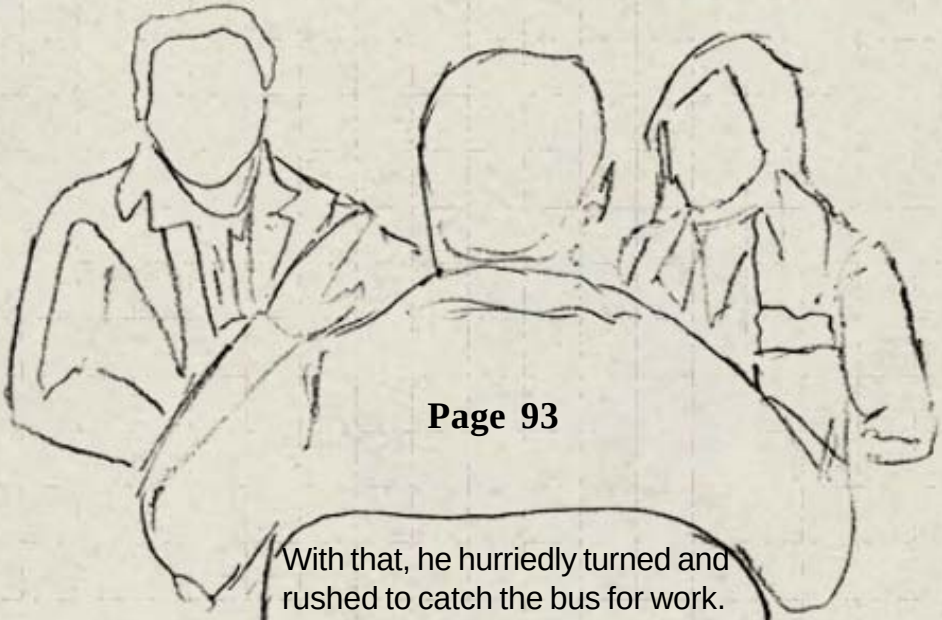


## What Day is This?

Maggie insists that Egbert can never remember occasions such as anniversaries and birthdays.

To prove her point, she recites what had happened only a week or so earlier. As Egbert made his way out the front door on the way to work, she had challenged him, 'I bet you don't know what day this is today!'

Although she saw that he was obviously perplexed, he nevertheless replied, 'Of course I do, my dear. How could I forget?'





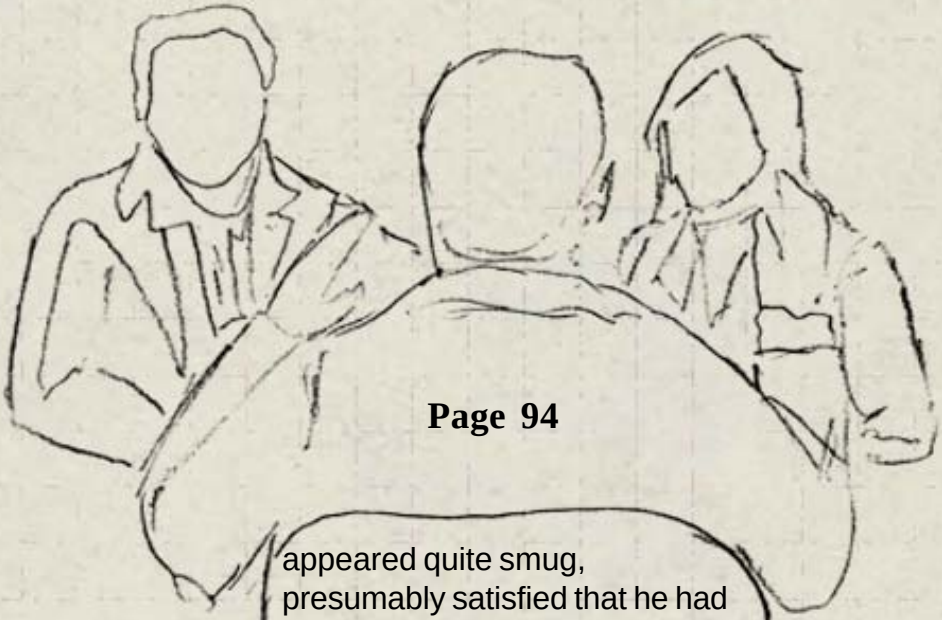
With that, he hurriedly turned and rushed to catch the bus for work.

At 10 a.m., she says, the doorbell rang and a delivery boy handed her a box containing a dozen long-stemmed red roses.

At about 1 p.m. a foil wrapped, heart shaped box of chocolates arrived.

Later in the afternoon, a boutique courier delivered a designer dress. Naturally, Maggie could hardly wait for Egbert to come home.

When Egbert finally arrived, he

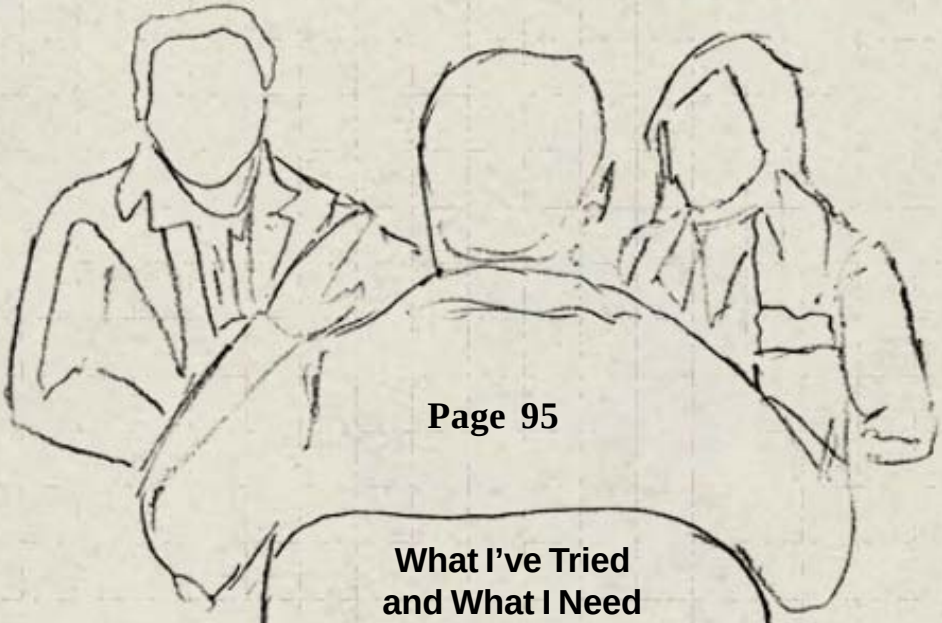




appeared quite smug, presumably satisfied that he had covered over what could have been a very embarrassing situation.

Maggie greeted him with a hug, saying, 'First the flowers, then the chocolates and then the dress!

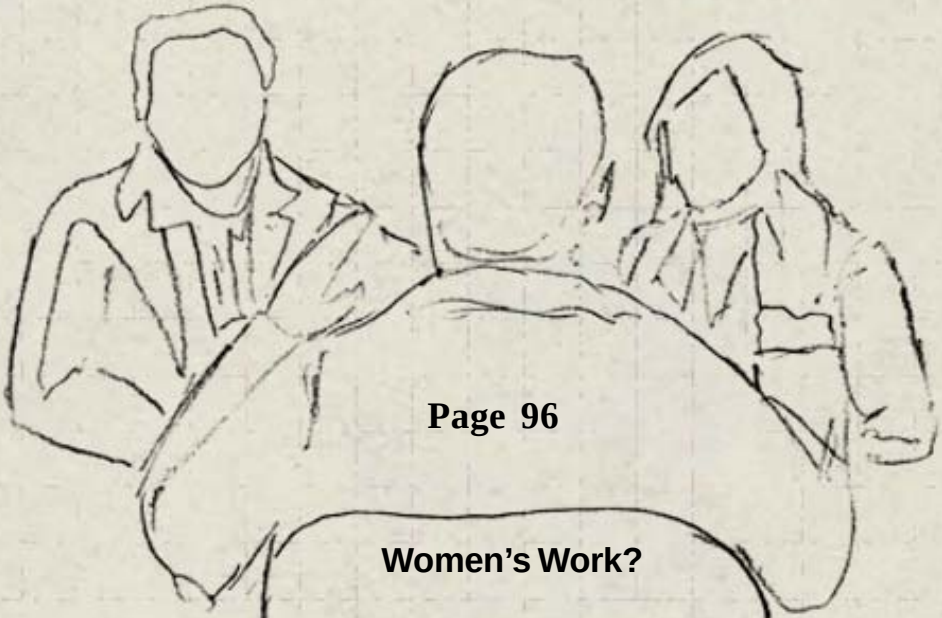
I've never had a more wonderful National Daffodil Day in my life!"





## What I've Tried and What I Need

Wife to husband: "I've tried self-hypnosis and transcendental meditation, Egbert, but what I really need is more housekeeping money."



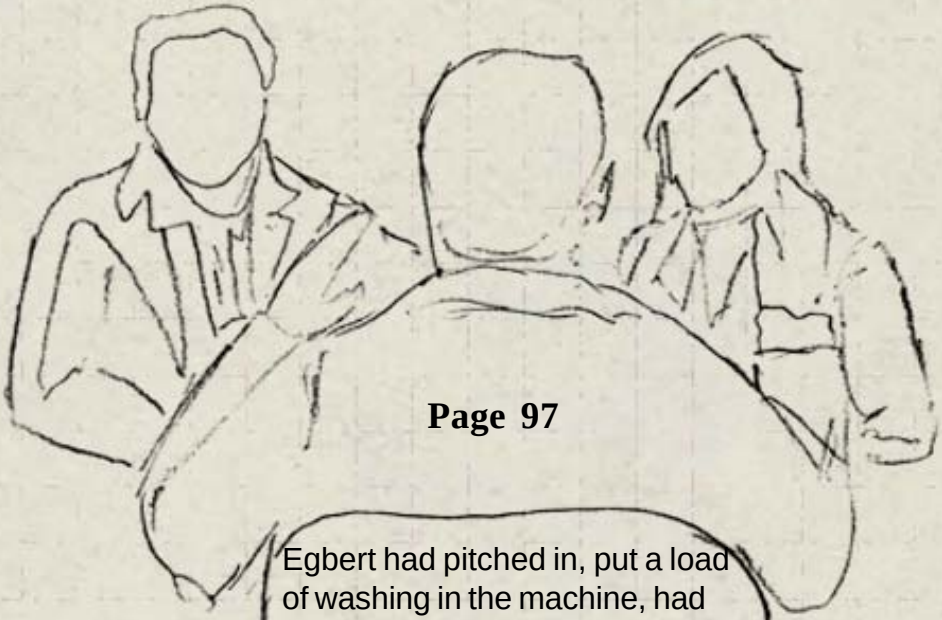


## Women's Work?

Egbert considered housework to be woman's work, but felt guilty watching his wife work so hard.

He related to me what happened one evening when his wife Maggie arrived home from work and he had tried to make a change.

You see, he had read a magazine article which said that the reason wives didn't often feel romantically inclined was because they so tired from doing all the housework on their own. So this particular evening,





Egbert had pitched in, put a load of washing in the machine, had done the ironing and vacuuming, prepared the evening meal and bathed the children ready for bed.

He remarked how surprised and even suspicious Maggie was, and quickly added that he only did it the once, vowing that it was a bad idea.

'Maggie was romantically inclined alright,' he concluded' but it didn't work the way I had planned because I was too tired.'

## Wrong Finger

Egbert complained that his wife Maggie always 'gets things back-to-front'.

'She even wears her wedding ring on the wrong finger!' he cited as an example.

Maggie just sat there and smilingly replied, 'That's because I married the wrong man'.

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